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THURSDAY, JANUARY 20TH, 2011

RESIDENTS EXPRESS THEIR FEARS...

Would White Farm houses make local flooding more likely?

PEOPLE opposed to the building of a housing development at White Farm in Barry believe that last week's torrential downpours strengthen their case.

Persimmon Homes

East Wales originally wanted to build 189 homes at the local beauty spot, but since revised plans were drawn up, they want to build 177 homes.

But Mr Bryn Evans, who lives near Barry cemetery, contacted The GEM on Friday to point out: "It has been like a torrent down Cemetery

by TIM
CHAPMAN

Lane in the last couple of days because the drainage in the area can't cope.

"It shows how unrealistic it is to build houses at White Farm nearby."

Mr Dennis Harkus, of FocusBARRY, pointed out: "The amount of water discharging into the drainage at the bottom of Merthyr Dyfan Lane is a major cause of concern to the local community.

"I have witnessed on several occasions the river-like appearance of water flowing down Cemetery Lane, which discharges into the inadequate drainage system.

"The proposed development at White Farm can only add to this

problem and the council, together with the developers, should be holding public meetings to inform the community about the impact of the current proposals, about the plans for the much-valued open space, and how they want to deal with the drainage problem.

"The public needs to know and think about the proposals before a decision is made, and not be told by council officials and the developers what they intend to do.

"What problem do they have in consulting with people? It could be a 'win-win' situation for everyone."

On Tuesday, January 11, Stephen Blakeman the chair of Barry Flooding, who is also

the Plaid candidate for the Dyfan ward, outlined his concerns to the town's planning committee.

Mr Blakeman lobbied for more than £900,000 for flood prevention measures in Barry to protect schools and residential houses.

He told councillors that over development of White Farm threatens hard work that has already been carried out in preventing flooding in the town.

Following the meeting, he commented: "I was glad that Barry Town Council planning committee listened to my concerns and strengthened their objections to the development."

(CONTINUED
ON PAGE 5)



LEFT:
Jo and Dave
Hodges on
honeymoon
in San
Francisco
last October.

I'm running for my missus – and the MS Trust charity!

by TIM
CHAPMAN

A 48-year-old Barry man returned from honeymoon last autumn and immediately started training for the London Marathon, where he will be running for his wife and the MS Trust.

Dave Hodges, a housing site manager, and his wife Jo, a library manager, jetted off for a honeymoon in San Francisco in October, but as soon as the couple returned to the chillier climes of south Wales, Dave was out pounding the streets.

He explained: "The

London Marathon is on April 17 and I'm not a runner, so as soon as we got back I started training, doing between five and seven kilometres every night, come rain, come shine.

"So far, I've lost more than a stone, going down from 14 stone 11 lbs to 13 stone 6."

Dave's marathon challenge has been inspired by his wife Jo, who despite being diagnosed with 'relapsing and remitting multiple sclerosis', has a busy career as a library manager at Coleg Morgannwg's Nantgarw campus.

Jo has to self-inject each day to control her condition, which affects her hands, balance and eyesight.

Multiple sclerosis (MS) is the most common cause of neurological disability in young adults, and affects 100,000 people in the UK – but as Jo's experience demonstrates, positive steps can be taken to improve a person's quality of life.

(CONTINUED
ON PAGE 4)

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WINTER PET FOOD APPEAL

Open letter to readers and staff at The GEM

THANK you all so much for your kind donation of £20 and the wonderful supply of dog and cat food. Your gift made Christmas a happy one. Best wishes from all at the Animal Welfare Society Sanctuary. Trinant, Crumlin

Spurred on by GEM ice report

YOUR reporter Tim Chapman's article on bad weather (January 6) was timely and certainly thought-provoking.

I for one went to the Town Hall to express my concern at the danger of iced pavement surfaces outside the Eryl Surgery, where I witnessed elderly and frail people, mothers and fathers with small children and pushchairs being forced to walk in the road at the very busy intersection.

With this unpredictable winter weather we are currently experiencing, strategically-placed salt and grit bins may become a permanent landmark in the future, for the use of

traders, council workers and concerned citizens.

Bins would also be a welcome addition for many householders in some residential areas.

Tim Chapman's report certainly spurred us on. Our little club (The Camel's) had a discussion on this subject.

It was decided that providing a bin of salt and grit is close by and the Town Council give us their blessing, and our friends will, whenever possible (although we are not so stable on our pins ourselves), keep a weather eye on the pavement outside the surgery during snowy and icy conditions.

Joe Claese,
Llantwit Major

Representing the people...

INOTE that the letter from Coun Curtis headed 'FocusBARRY - and reality...' in The GEM on January 13, is using the same old stale sound bites to promote the major political party system in the Vale.

I now ask the people of Barry if they are satisfied with the results of their management? Barry was once a thriving port, seaside town, town centre, high street etc, but is now being turned into a dormitory town - houses, houses, and more houses...

Thousands of them are being planned and built for Barry, without urgent and necessary improvements to main routes and infrastructure, eg Port Road/Cardiff Road.

One issue that has been highlighted by Jeff Heathfield, the inde-

pendent candidate for Dyfan ward, is the level of concern over the proposed "candidate housing sites" to the north of Port Road - from 5 Mile Lane / Highlight Park and along Port Road (many green areas).

We as voters have to ask our current representatives why the Vale Council will not allow building on the huge 'brownfield' site at Llandow, when an independent survey indicates a growing demand for houses in the Vale.

Barry is a town of great potential, but seems to go unrecognised by the current regime.

Any independent candidate endorsed by FocusBARRY - will adhere to its aims - ie to represent 'the people' in the ward concerned - and not the interests of any political party.

Brian Osborne
(Vice Chair,
FocusBARRY)

THE COLUMN YOU WRITE

Readers' Letters

We reserve the right to edit all letters. We do NOT accept anonymous mail. Letters and emails MUST include full address and a contact telephone number. An email address alone is not sufficient. We will (in certain circumstances), protect a writer's identity, if requested. Please keep your letters BRIEF and address them to: The Editor, Glamorgan GEM Ltd, Graig House, 53 Eastgate, Cowbridge CF71 7EL.

'FocusBARRY is not a party and does not seek power...'

IWRITE to respond to the letter from Coun Rob Curtis, ('FocusBARRY and reality' - The GEM, January 13).

The letter and allegations are misinformed, mischievous and far from the reality suggested in the title.

Coun Curtis says "they may call themselves a new party", and "even if FocusBARRY took every seat in Barry, they would still be unable to take control of the Vale Council".

But we are not a party, we are not seeking to control the Vale Council, and FocusBARRY is not standing for election.

So much for the reality, then!

Our purpose is to provide an opportunity for local people to play an active role in the community and to support independent candidates at council elections, people who are willing to commit themselves to the values and principles of FocusBARRY.

They include listening and promoting genuine community involvement; reviewing councilor payments; seeking changes to

the way Barry is governed; acting openly and transparently, and sharing their thoughts and ideas with other FocusBARRY members.

We do not want to be a political party, although we may need to register in the future so that we can openly endorse our support for independent candidates on the ballot paper.

Coun Curtis then adds that..."They will moan and promise everything" and that "FocusBARRY seem more willing than anyone to resort to the old politics of personal attacks".

This latter comment is beyond the pale, it lacks credibility and demonstrates, at best, a complete misunderstanding of what is happening.

Our supporters speak for themselves, they do not speak on our behalf. Perhaps the Labour party should be held accountable for anything Coun Curtis may say, or be accused of saying?

I have been asked to speak on behalf of the group on two occasions; once to support the paddling pool initiative and then to respond to this letter. Any other statement that Coun Curtis may wish to portray as a personal

attack by FocusBARRY should be taken up with the individual concerned.

'Moan' has negative connotations which may have been intended, but I can confirm that FocusBARRY supporters are dissatisfied with the way Barry is being run.

We do not promise everything: our commitment to the community is clearly set out in our constitution, values and principles, drafts of which have been circulated.

Coun Curtis then goes on to say that all FocusBARRY will do is to ensure that the Conservatives remain in control. This scare tactic passed its sell-by date years ago and he only has to look to see how much energy the Conservatives are recently putting into the Dyfan ward to show that they are just as worried about FocusBARRY as he appears to be.

However, it is time to confront this locally-failed duopoly of either Labour or the Conservatives running our town - and at this election people have another choice. **Dennis Harkus**
(Chair, FocusBARRY)

'Charming' path was treacherous

HAVING given up using the "charming" path from Twt Park to Martin's a couple of years ago, because of the bad state of repair and litter, I assumed something had been done about it, from reading Mrs Margaret Hopwood's letter last week.

I therefore walked it again last Saturday and couldn't believe it could be 'charming'.

The part parallel to the church wall is just a rusty wire fence with a small piece of scrub land between them, full of litter.

SMALL MAP A USEFUL AID?

IAM writing to provide feedback on the Barry GEM! As a fairly new resident to the Barry area, I enjoy reading your publication very much.

However, I have a suggestion which would, I believe, improve articles for people such as myself who are not totally cognisant of local geography.

What I suggest is that a small map of the area is included. I cite as an example an article about Swan Bend in Dinas. Now I understand that I could look it up on Google maps; but for the article to be fully informative, a small map would be extremely useful.

Colin Watkins, Barry
Footnote: thank you, Mr Watkins, for your suggestion, which is being given full consideration.

Combined cinema and heritage centre

IREAD with interest the letter in The GEM from Claire Curtis, in support of the 'Save our Cinema Association'.

The Barry cinema is a historic 100-year-old building that would seem to make an ideal venue for a combined Barry heritage centre and cinema.

Such a combined venture would not only provide a sound basis for a heritage centre, as supported in principle by the Vale Council, but the proposal would also bring back this well-loved and utilised cinema.

This would provide

more of a facility to the people of Barry, and a draw to visiting tourists than the proposed residential care unit.

With talk of the regeneration of Barry, hopefully even at this seemingly late hour, people with true vision for the town could see the merit of a combined cinema and heritage centre.

I would hope that they then utilised some of the currently available Barry regeneration scheme money to make this vision a reality for the people of Barry.

Ade Pitman
Friends of Barry History
www.barryhistory.co.uk

'Young people are interested'

IWOULD like to respond to the recent letter from FocusBarry which suggested that young people have a low interest in politics.

We have not found that to be the case in the Vale of Glamorgan Labour Party, which has seen a welcome increase in new young members joining us over the past few months.

Many of our new young members are taking a keen interest in local and national politics, getting involved in campaigns and linking their interest to policies which affect them, such

as the educational maintenance allowance which the Labour-led Welsh Assembly Government has decided to keep, whilst the UK Conservative-Lib Dem Government is scrapping it.

Our new young members are playing an important part in the Labour Party and we have been impressed by their commitment, their enthusiasm and their principles.

I think this reflects the growing interest of young people in politics. **Camilla Beaven,**
Youth Officer, Vale of Glamorgan Labour Party

Who can remember Sergeant Bradbury?

IAM working on a project about my grandfather's service as an army volunteer prior to WW1; his Sergeant/Instructor at the time was **Philip B Bradbury.**

In the 1901 Cowbridge census, Mr Bradbury was aged 47, living at East Village with his wife Eleanor and their children - Grace (13), Elsie (10), Harold (8), Gwladys (6) and Hilda (3).

If there are any descendants living in the area, I would love to hear from them. Please telephone 01446 796763, or email brenda@youde3439.freeserve.co.uk.

Brenda Youde,
Llantwit Major.

HIGH TIDE TIMES (UNTIL JANUARY 27)

The high tides listed in this week's GEM are those in Porthcawl. It should be remembered that along the coast, high tide times will vary. For instance, in Barry, the high point will be 20 - 25 minutes later.

DATE	Time	Ht	Time	Ht
	AM	M	PM	M
20 Thur	06.32	9.8	19.02	9.9
21 Fri	07.17	10.3	19.42	10.2
22 Sat	08.01	10.4	20.24	10.3
23 Sun	08.39	10.4	21.09	9.9
24 Mon	09.25	10.1	21.49	9.6
25 Tues	10.08	9.7	22.29	9.2
26 Wed	10.58	9.1	23.22	8.6
27 Thur	11.51	8.5		

While The GEM makes every effort to check the accuracy of tide tables, we recommend that anyone putting out to sea, or walking in an area where they could be cut off, should always check with a tide table specific to their location.

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Cardiff Airport baggage trolleys

AS letter writer Cassie Houghton mentions, other airports charge for using baggage trolleys: the one I used operated the supermarket system.

You put money in to release the trolley for use and then got your money back when you docked the trolley, after you had finished with it. Do Bristol and Birmingham airports operate this system as well?

As to the drop off/pick-up charge at Cardiff - it is free at Heathrow and Gatwick. **D Andrews, Boverton.**

CARDIFF CROWN COURT ROUND-UP with AJ SICLUNA

BARRY MAN HAD CHILD PORN ON HIS COMPUTER

A YOUNG man who had pornographic images of children on his computer, was arrested after his mother reported the matter to the police, Cardiff Crown Court has heard.

Geoffrey Witney (24) from Barry, who had no previous convictions, pleaded guilty to 24 offences involving making indecent photographs and possessing indecent photographs.

He was sentenced to a community order for three years, involving a sex offender group-work programme, and a mental health treatment requirement under the direction of a psychologist.

He was also made subject to a five-year sexual prevention order, prohibiting him living in the same house as a child under 18 without prior social services approval; and he was also prohibited from being alone with a child under 18.

Witney was also ordered to register as a sex offender for five years.

Prosecutor Tony Trigg said Witney's mother became aware that he had the indecent images and reported him to the local police.

Judge Neil Bidder said Witney had downloaded a large quantity of level one pictures (the least serious), including six movies and a small number of level two, three, four and five images.

The judge said that those at

level four and above were "totally offensive" and involved "the shocking abuse of children".

He pointed out that none of the images was distributed and Witney had never attempted to contact a child.

"You have had a significant amount of mental health problems," he said.

There was a prognosis of autism, he had been dyslexic, been treated for depression, and had self-harmed.

"You have an addictive personality and you have lived an isolated life.

"The public would be better protected by means of a community order involving education and rehabilitation," he added.

The judge ordered his computer to be forfeited.

Penarth man had cannabis – court is told

A 38-year-old Penarth man has been given a conditional discharge for one year at Cardiff Crown Court for possessing cannabis.

Simon Carter was searched by the police in Hill Terrace, Penarth, on June 1 and officers found 64 grammes of cannabis resin and cannabis skunk, said prosecutor Suzanne Thomas.

Carter pleaded guilty to two charges of possessing cannabis before Vale magistrates, and was committed to the crown court for sentence.

The drug was said to have a street value of about £180, and Carter told the police it was entirely for personal use.

He pleaded not guilty to possessing cannabis with intent, and no evidence was offered against him on that charge.

His counsel, James Evans, said Carter pleaded guilty at the first opportunity and had been waiting many months to come to court.

Judge John Curran told him: "In view of all the circumstances, I am not going to fine you or impose any other form of sentence."

WHITE FARM: the battle goes on over development plans

I HAVE been meeting many local residents during the Barry Town Council by-election campaign, and the issue that continues to come top of the list of concerns is the proposed development at White Farm.

I joined the White Farm Campaign when it was originally set up by the Barry Town Labour councillor Keith Lewis and Vale Labour councillor Rob Curtis, many years ago.

Although some residents may feel that the fight was lost when outline planning permission was given, I want to assure them that the fight continues as the planning application for the actual building of houses has not been before the planning committee yet.

No details have been finalised and it is on these decisions that we need to try and influence the planning meeting and councillors.

The planning application for houses to be built on White Farm is due to be heard at a planning committee meeting in February or March.

Council officers have informed us that the amended planning application by Persimmon Homes is for 177 houses, which is much too dense for the area and will increase traffic volumes on an already congested Colcot Road.

As there has also been flooding in the area in the last few years, we want to make sure local voices are heard at the planning committee meeting. Claire Curtis, Barry (Labour candidate for the Town Council's Dyfan ward)

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BARRY MAN'S MARATHON CHALLENGE

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

Jo said that Dave's determination to complete the London Marathon is "amazing", but two years ago, she and her sister Penni raised £6,700 for the MS Trust when they completed the London to Dover leg of a London to Paris cycle ride.

Dave's run is also on

behalf of the trust, which is an independent UK charity for people with MS, their families and friends, and for health and social care professionals who work with them. It provides information, professional education and funds research.

Dave is leaving nothing to chance in his search for peak fitness

ahead of the starting gun on April 17.

"Barry is a good area to train because it is so hilly - London's a lot flatter.

"Over the weekends, I also take part in the regular Cardiff 5K park run. I am steadily increasing what I do."

The couple have also arranged a fundraising event at 7.30pm on Friday, March 25 at Juliano's Restaurant on The Parade in Barry.

Dave said: "Juliano's has agreed to be taken over for the evening - there will be lots of fun including games and a raffle - even the tips for the night will go to the fund!"

Jo added: "Since 2005, we have tried to raise awareness of the disease and money to fund research into finding effective treatments for what is, as yet, an incurable illness."

So what is the target Dave has set himself?

"If I completed the run in between four and four-and-a-half hours, I'd be over the moon."

For information on sponsoring Dave, or to book a ticket for the evening at Juliano's, contact him on 07816 649817, or email dph1962@yahoo.co.uk; you can also sponsor him online at www.virgin-moneygiving.com/DavidHodges.

Renewal area plan 'is still on track in ward'

AS the local Vale councillors for Castletand ward, we would like to reassure residents that the renewal area for the ward is still going ahead and is currently on track.

A new renewal area office has been found in Holton Road and once opened, will be an information point for progress on the renewal area.

The renewal team will be shortly looking for local residents to sit on working groups and are currently still asking homeowners in certain streets in the ward to join the renewal programme.

We will make sure that residents are kept informed as to what is happening with the renewal area - but we would like to dispel the rumour it is not happening; it is happening and will be of great benefit to the Castletand community.

Chris Elmore and Pamela Drake (Councillors for Castletand Ward, Barry)

Miss Tufty (and her friends) give pupils a safety lesson!

THE infants at All Saints Church in Wales Primary School have been given a special lesson on road safety by the Vale Council's very own road safety officer, 'Miss Tufty' (Sian Acres).

Miss Tufty brought along her friends, Tufty Squirrel and Wally Weasel, to teach the children some important road safety rules.

One pupil had the chance to dress up as a lollipop lady, a spokesperson reported.

"The children thoroughly enjoyed their lesson and were each given a sticker to remind them of the importance of crossing the road safely".



ABOVE: Two of the pupils with Miss Tufty, Wally Weasel, and their helpers, Sian Acres!



Campaigner is ward candidate



ABOVE: Plaid Cymru Assembly candidate for the Vale, Dr Ian Johnson (left) with Stephen Blakeman, outside the Town Hall.

PLAID CYMRU has selected recent recruit Stephen Blakeman as its candidate in the Dyfan ward by-election for Barry Town Council.

A spokesman said that Mr Blakeman was commended by the Vale Council for his work as chair of Barry Flooding: "As a result of his campaign, more than £900,000 was awarded to the Vale of Glamorgan to carry out flood prevention works to stop floods affecting Oakfield Primary School, Ysgol Gynradd Gwaun y Nant and St Richard Gwyn, as well as many houses throughout Barry."

The election is to take place on Thursday, February 10.

Barry historical group could soon rise again

FOLLOWING a recent school reunion, when she found it difficult to trace old photographs, Alison Moya decided to find out what had happened to the Barry Island Historical Group.

She explained: "I remember a number of years ago attending a display of memorabilia presented by the group and found it very interesting. "However, the group has not been active for a while and I was keen to find out whether it would be possible to get things going again."

Janet Haywood, head teacher at Barry Island School, organised a meeting with two other interested parties, John Chucas and Peter Mogridge.

"John contacted existing group members and we are, we believe ready to start laying the foundations for re-establishing the group," said Alison.

"We are hoping to involve some of the children from Barry Island School in the project; after all if we can create an interest in the youth then the preservation of the history of Barry Island may have a good chance of being successful."

"We are keen to have a group with people possessing a variety of skills; we believe that as most of the documentation is to be digitalized, computer skills are important."

"We are also hoping that people of all ages will wish to be involved, and most of all, we would like people to have a real thirst for gathering information and getting the group working," Alison added.

If you would like to be a part of the Barry Island Historical Group email Alison on shelley.alison@ntlworld.com.

Wet and wild walk

CASTLELAND Communities First and Valeways recently organised a walk for community members from the Waterfront to Barry Island.

More than 10 community members braved the wet conditions to complete the 90-minute walk on Sunday afternoon.

Jo Bass, Castleland Communities First development worker, said: "It was great to see the community coming together in this healthy activity. The walk was an excellent opportunity for residents to get fit and socialise with their friends and beat the January blues."

Castleland Communities First are looking to arrange more walks and to train walk leaders.

Contact Jo Bass 01446 709170 or jbass@vale-of-glamorgan.gov.uk.

To find out more about walking opportunities in the Vale visit www.vale-ways.org.uk.

RP

THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL (BARRY AREA) (PROHIBITION OF ACCESS) (ALLEYGATING - TIDY TOWNS) ORDER 2010

1. On the 6th January 2011, The Vale of Glamorgan Council in exercise of its powers under Sections 1 & 2 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 (as amended) and of all other enabling powers made an Order the general effect of which is as described below.

2. The Order will come into operation on the 24th January 2011 or on the date that each Alleysgate is installed and a copy of the Order and plans showing the affected area may be seen at the address shown below during normal office hours.

3. If you wish to question the validity of the Order or any provisions contained therein on the grounds that they are not within the powers conferred by the above Act or on the grounds that any requirement of the same or that any instrument made under it has not been complied with in relation to the Order, you may within six weeks from the 24th January 2011 apply to the High Court for this purpose.

4. Except as provided by the Order:-

No person shall cause or permit any vehicle to proceed, at any time, along the service lanes specified in the schedule below.

5. No person shall proceed on foot or pedal cycle, at any time, along the service lanes specified in the schedule below.

SCHEDULE

The lengths of Service Lanes to be restricted are:

Rear Lane between 11 and 23 Trinity Street
Rear Lane between 38 and 78 Princes Street
Rear Lane behind 36 Princes Street

Un-adopted Lanes

Rear Lane between 8 and 24 Salisbury Road
Rear Lane between 2 and 24 Victoria Road
Rear Lane between 1 and 16 Dyfrig Street

Dated this 20th day of January 2011

M Punter, Head of Visible Services
Vale of Glamorgan Council
The Alps,
Wenvoe CF5 6AA



CYNGOR BRO MORGANNWG 2010 GORCHYMYN (GWAHARDD MYNEDIAD) (ARDAL Y BARRI) (GATIAU PEN LńN - BRO DDIOGELACH)

1. Ar 6 Ionawr 2011, yr oedd Cyngor Bro Morgannwg, gan arfer ei bwerau o dan Adranau 1 a 2 o Ddeddf Rheoli Traffig 1984 (ddwygiedig) a phob p_e_r galluogi arall, wedi gwneud Gorchymyn i'r diben cyffredinol sydd wedi'i egluro yn yr Atodlen isod.

2. Daw'r Gorchymyn i rym ar 24 Ionawr 2011, neu ar y dyddiad y gosodir pob gât ben lôn, a chewch weld copi o'r Gorchymyn a chynllun sy'n dangos yr ardal dan sylw, yn y cyfeiriad isod yn ystod oriau swyddfa arferol.

3. Os hoffech ddadlau yn erbyn dilyswydd y Gorchymyn neu'i ddarpariaethau am na chredwch fod gan y ddeddf uchod b_e_r i'w gweithredu, neu am y tybiwch eu bod yn methu â chydymffurfio â gofynion y ddeddf uchod neu un o'i hofferynnau, bydd gennych chwe wythnos o 24 Ionawr 2011 i wneud cais i'r Uchel Lys i'r diben hwnnw.

4. Ac eithrio fel y darperir gan y Gorchymyn:-

Ni fydd hawl i neb yrru na chaniatáu i neb arall yrru cerbyd ar unrhyw adeg ar hyd y lonydd a nodwyd yn yr atodlen isod.

5. Ni fydd hawl i neb gerddeu na seiclo ar unrhyw adeg ar hyd y lonydd a nodwyd yn yr atodlen isod.

ATODLEN

Cyfyngir ar y Lonydd Gwasanaeth canlynol:

Y Lôn Gefn rhwng 11 a 23 Trinity Street
Y Lôn Gefn rhwng 38 a 78 Princes Street
Y Lôn Gefn y tu ôl i 36 Princes Street

a'r Lonydd hyn sydd heb eu mabwysiadu

Y Lôn Gefn rhwng 8 a 24 Salisbury Road
Y Lôn Gefn rhwng 2 a 24 Victoria Road
Y Lôn Gefn rhwng 1 ac 16 Dyfrig Street

Dyddiedig 20 Ionawr 2011

M Punter
Pennaeth Gwasanaethau Gweladwy
Cyngor Bro Morgannwg
Canolfan yr Alpau, Gwenvô CF5 6AA





Concern that work funded by Assembly will be undone

Flooding fears for residents at White Farm

LEFT: This picture supplied by the Cemetery Approach Action Group, illustrates how Cemetery Lane can flood when torrential rain hits the town.

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

Planning committee member, Coun Shirley Hodges, welcomed Mr Blakeman's comments: "It's important to continue to highlight to the Vale Council and the developers our concern that this overdevelopment will undo all the work funded by the Welsh Assembly in solving Barry's flooding problems."

Mr Steve Williams the managing director of Persimmon Homes East Wales, told The GEM: "We have been working for some months on developing a flooding and drainage plan which will not only deal effectively with rainwater run-off from the new houses, but will also help to address the existing problems down stream of the site."

"Our drainage consultants are consulting closely with the Environment Agency and the Vale of Glamorgan Council on how this might best be achieved and in the first instance, it will be for these statutory bodies to determine

whether our proposals provide an acceptable solution.

"It would be wrong of us to present the community with any plans until they have been the subject of expert scrutiny and review."

Mr Williams emphasised: "Once this has happened, we will be very happy to provide local residents with a more detailed insight into how the flooding and drainage scheme for White Farm will work."

Rob Thomas, the head of planning and transportation at the council, said: "The principle of residential development at White Farm has already been established through the granting of a previous granting of planning permission."

"The current application, as a consequence, seeks the approval of the detailed layout of the site, as well as measures to deal with drainage."

Mr Thomas added: "The concerns of residents and other consultees will be considered by the council prior to reaching a decision on the matter."

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01446 709432

or e-mail

kvdavies@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk



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Councillors' anger at bus suspension

LOCAL councillors have criticised the decision to suspend a bus service in Barry, after a window was smashed by vandals.

The incident took place on January 5, and led to the Est Bus Ltd 95 evening service, which runs from Llantwit to Cardiff via Barry, being suspended until January 10.

Local councillors said they were angry that the bus did not run along St Brides Way and Pencoedre Road.

Coun Curtis claimed: "It is wrong for the bus company to withdraw the service and make innocent local residents wait at bus stops for buses which will never come."

Coun Margaret Wilkinson said: "We have been told by the police that the last incident of this type happened nearly two years ago."

"The bus company should be raising any concerns to local police and the local PACT committee, to ensure that these attacks are stopped immediately."

"Innocent pensioners and vulnerable people should not have to pay for the actions of a tiny minority."

She added: "We urge anyone with any information on these attacks to contact the police on 101, quoting crime reference number 62110005103."

At the time of going to press, The GEM had not received a response from Est Bus Ltd.

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Wheelchair man's bid for Assembly seat Damian's ambition is to be a history maker!

A 28-year-old man from Barry aims to make Welsh political history in the May Assembly elections.

Damian Chick has cerebral palsy, but his disability has not dimmed his ambition and he wants to become the first wheelchair user to be elected to the Welsh Assembly.

He told The GEM: "In fact, I'm the first wheelchair user to stand for the Assembly."

Selected to represent the Liberal Democrats in the Vale, Mr Chick challenged voters who may have doubts over his suitability for the role of Assembly Member.

"Why would people think I can't do the job, just because their first image of me is as a wheelchair user?"

"I have experience of working in policy matters at the Cardiff and Vale NHS Trust, where I fulfilled an unpaid role as the voice of service users."

"I also undertook an unpaid internship in the Welsh Assembly focusing on health policy."

Report by TIM CHAPMAN

Mr Chick explained that his own experience of life gave him a different perspective from able-bodied people.

"The issue of lack of access for those with a disability is something that an able-bodied person does not necessarily understand."

"I would like to use the position of Assembly Member to give those with disabilities a wider voice in the Vale, but also on the international stage."

Mr Chick said there were other issues that he was keen to address.

"The Vale is a beautiful part of the country and we should be making more of the opportunities here to promote tourism as an industry and bring wealth into the area."

"I am looking forward to the opportunity to engage with residents, businesses and voluntary organisations in the Vale, to see what we can achieve together."

He said that with the Defence Technical College project on the



LEFT: Vale Assembly candidate Damian Chick.

"Disabled people have an important role to play in enriching our political debate, but many continue to experience a wide range of barriers that prevent them from getting involved."

"These barriers could be negative attitudes or assumptions about their capabilities, or the inaccessibility of buildings, processes and information."

Mr O'Grady added: "We would encourage all political parties and elected bodies to ensure they are actively engaging disabled people so they are more representative of the local population."

scrapheap, he saw jobs as a huge issue in the Vale.

Mr Chick recognises that he faces an uphill task, with the Vale a battleground historically between Labour and Conservative.

In 2007, Jane Hutt (Labour) the winning candidate, polled 11,515 votes, 83 more than the Tory candidate Gordon Kemp – the Liberal Democrats came in fourth, polling 3,758 votes.

Matt O'Grady of Scope Cymru, whose

aim is "a world where disabled people have the same opportunities as everyone else", said the fact that Damian was even standing for a political party was a step forward.

"The news that Damian has been selected to run for a seat in the Welsh Assembly is extremely positive, as we know disabled people are generally unrepresented, not only across the Welsh Assembly, but in many elected positions – such as councillors and governors."

PACT meetings

DYFAN PACT, Barry Comprehensive School, Port Road, Barry, on January 31 at 6pm.
CASTLELAND PACT, Civic Offices, Holton Road, Barry on January 31 at 7pm.

BARUC PACT, Barry Island Community Centre, Friars Road, Barry Island, on January 31 at 7.15pm.
ILLYD PACT, Mount Sorrel Hotel, Porthkerry Road, Barry, on February 1 at 7pm.

BUTTRILLS PACT, Philip John Community Room, Barry Library, on February 14 at 6.30pm.
SULLY SURGERY, South Road, outside the Onestop shop on January 27 between 2pm and 4pm.

ST AUGUSTINE'S PACT, on February 3 in the back room of the Windsor Public House at 7pm.
DINAS POWYS PACT, on February 7 in the Old Library on Brüway Road at 7pm.
CORNERSWELL PACT, on February 10 in Penarth Leisure Centre at 7pm.

OBITUARY

Death of a local publishing legend

Stewart Williams 12.12.1925 – 13.01.2011

STEWART WILLIAMS of Barry, who died on January 13, was best known as the editor and publisher of the popular *Cardiff Yesterday* and *Vale Series*.

His roots were in Ely, and he maintained strong links with this area throughout his life, retaining membership of the Cardiff West End Social Club.

He spent his early years working for Cardiff City Council in the engineers department, during which time he met his wife, Betty, who died in April 2009, a loss from which he never truly recovered.

His involvement in publishing started at a young age, with the production of bootleg programmes for Cardiff City, of which he was a lifelong supporter.

He moved from Cardiff City Council to join the Western Welsh Bus Company as publicity officer.

It was during this period that Stewart's part-time publishing career really took off.

His *Vale Series* (1959-62) comprised four volumes dedicated to telling the history of Glamorgan through short, lively contributions from a range of authors, led in no small



way by Professor Glyn Daniel.

This was soon followed by 12 volumes of *Glamorgan Historian* and an advisory role in the publication of the Glamorgan County History.

Although these titles attracted a loyal and widespread readership, Stewart's biggest legacy must be the legendary Cardiff series – 36 volumes containing in all some 7,500 old photographs of Cardiff – recording the life of the city and its people.

The success of this project enabled Stewart to leave the Western Welsh and make publishing his sole career.

Operating from his home in Barry, it was a family affair, which meant that Betty and their two children, Robert and Diane, learned to turn their hands to all aspects – from proof reading to delivering copies of books to individual subscribers.

Stewart's other great love was jazz music and he liked nothing more than to visit Ronnie Scott's, or jam with Victor Parker in Bute Street's long gone Quebec pub.

Stewart's publishing activities did spread beyond Cardiff and his pioneering books of places in old photographs included the Rhondda, Caerphilly, Ebbw Vale and Barry to name but a view.

There were other projects like *Grandmother Extraordinary – the life of Mary de la Beche Nicoll* written by Hilary M Thomas – and *Vintage Buses and Trams in South Wales*.

All in all, Stewart published more than 100 books – a remarkable legacy for a one-man band – and he has left a unique and lasting record for anyone with an interest in the history of Cardiff and south Wales.

Sully fields turn into giant lakes



Celebration as community orchard moves step nearer

IT has been celebration time for the Wenvoe Wildlife Group which has acquired land for a long-planned community orchard.

Vale AM Jane Hutt, recently visited the site with Bruce McDonald and Ian Harvey of Keep Wales Tidy and afterwards commented: "I have been liaising with

the Wenvoe Wildlife Group over the past year since they raised with me the prospect of developing a community orchard for the village."

"With funding from Keep Wales Tidy, supported by the Welsh Assembly, Community orchards are being supported and the opportunity to find a site like this at Wenvoe is exciting. We hope that planting can

start in the next few weeks."

"During our visit to the new site, I learnt more about these fascinating plans developed by the Wenvoe Wildlife Group set within the historical context of fruit growing in the Vale – with wild and native fruit species being planted and local community involvement in the management of the orchard."

ABOVE: This was the scene in fields on the Barry to Sully road on Friday.

Normally, a peaceful area for local horses to graze, the water had formed a huge lake over the grass and was even lapping up to the edge of the road itself.

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FOCUS ON LOCAL AND NATIONAL CONCERNS TO PROTECT VALE BUSINESSES AND COMMUNITIES

IN balancing my ministerial and constituency duties, the needs and issues of communities and businesses, nationally and locally, are clearly reflected.

Over the past few weeks, I have been engaged fully in responding to the winter pressures as Minister and Vale Assembly Member.

When Carl Sargeant AM made a statement to the Assembly last week, on the winter pressures during the Christmas period, he was speaking as the lead Minister responsible for local government.

He gave account of the arrangements that were made to meet the need for salt and gritting, including an extra £7m made available for local authorities; as well as reporting on NHS pressures, school closures – and the impact on vulnerable people in terms of warmth and social support.

I was able to report in my business statement last week on the £110m for the NHS to help meet winter pressures as the snow fell in early December.

In responding to calls made to my constituency office in the Christmas week about clearing access to Barry Hospital, gritting side roads and

assisting people with heating problems, I liaised closely with the Vale Council, the Cardiff and Vale University Health Board and local councillors.

The feedback on those days when the pavements and roads were often treacherous, continues into the New Year, as people report on the difficulties they encountered.

These will all be fed back to the local authority in preparation for further adverse winter conditions.

In the past week, further anxieties have been raised as a result of the heavy rainfall across Wales, with the Vale of Glamorgan at the forefront of my concerns.

Visiting Llantwit Major at the weekend to check out the impact of the heavy rains, will lead me to raising concerns with the Environment Agency and my colleague Jane Davidson AM.

These environmental impacts on our communities are all taken into account in our budget preparations and are reflected in the draft budget for 2011-12, which I presented for debate in the Senedd on Tuesday.

A strong theme of our budget has been a commitment to safeguard and protect public services, as well as support-

ing our businesses at this fragile stage in the recovery of the economy.

I reminded the Assembly that our budget has been cut by £860m in 2011/12 by the UK Government, losing £1.8 billion by 2014/15 and a cut to our capital budget of 40 per cent over this period compared with the UK average of 29 per cent.

I said: "The Budget is about resilience – resilience in our economy and in the provision of vital services on which we all depend."

We have given a better financial settlement to local government in Wales than the UK Government has in England.

This means that we can work together to protect the most vulnerable in our communities by providing an extra £35m for social services over the next three years, and protecting the schools budget with an extra £61m over this period.

Our careful planning means that Welsh students will not have to pay extra tuition fees wherever they study and we will also keep our educational maintenance allowances for the younger age group. These are policy decisions made in Wales by a Welsh Government.

I have also been con-

cerned in the past few weeks with the needs of our town centres.

With the £9 million Welsh Assembly Government regeneration funding for Barry now resulting in over £2m allocated already, we will see a positive difference in the largest town in Wales.

However, I will be meeting with Sainsbury's chiefs on Friday to oppose their move to Park Crescent in Barry opposite Romilly Primary School,

which will threaten the livelihoods of the small businesses in this busy road in the west of Barry.

We must support our own, long standing businesses in economic renewal and regeneration – as well as back the development of new businesses in our county.

This is where local and national goals and objectives come together in the work of a Minister and Assembly Member in Wales.

ASSEMBLY NOTES



by Jane Hutt
AM (Assembly Minister for Business and Budget)

NEWS IN BRIEF

Fibromalgia support

THE Bridgend Fibromalgia Support Group provides support and friendship to those with this life-changing condition.

It meets monthly on Monday afternoons for two hours.

For further details, times and dates of meetings, please call Jayne on 01656 651132.

Vale AM's surgery

VALE Assembly Member Jane Hutt will be holding a surgery on Saturday, January 22, from 10am-11am at Dinas Powys Parish Hall, Britway Road

and from 11.30am-12noon at Wenloe Community Centre, Old Port Road. No appointment necessary.

Contact the AM's office on 01446 740981 if you require further information.

Ward surgery

THE Labour Vale and town councillors for Buttrills ward, Barry, Stuart Egan, Margaret Alexander and Pam Drake will be holding their monthly advice surgery on Saturday, January 22, from 10am-11.30am in Barry Town Council Office, Gladstone Road, Barry.

No appointment necessary.

Advertisement

Local Furniture and Carpet Store makes value and service their priority

Local independent furniture retailer The Place for Homes Ltd based in Llandow, just two miles from Cowbridge and Llantwit Major, has now been providing quality furniture at the very best prices throughout Wales for the last 40 years.



The choice and range of products is enormous. With the store being 50,000 sq ft - the size of a football pitch! There is something for everyone. Covering all departments, including dining, beds, bedroom, fabric and leather upholstery and of course, our new carpet and flooring department. We stock all major brands and carry many exclusive models to ensure that we have something to meet all tastes, lifestyles and budgets and always at the very best prices!

Now very much a family business with Graham Nelson as managing director and his son and daughter Rhys Nelson and Rhian Francis working full time in the business, the philosophy is to provide the very best value with traditional customer service being the key.

Graham is keen to add that this could not be done without the excellent team of staff; they are the key to the success of our business.

He emphasised "We are lucky enough to have a fantastic team, with a dedicated service department, our own

delivery team and knowledgeable and experienced sales staff, not forgetting our accounts and admin teams who ensure the smooth running behind the scenes.

Also with our new extensive, carpet, rug and flooring department, we have an experienced carpet manager who will ensure you find the carpet or flooring to suit you – and don't forget we provide a free estimating service and we'll uplift your old carpet!"

Rhian, who is a chartered accountant, commented that she left the accounting practice Deloitte in order to focus on the family business. The Place for Homes is a unique business with its business model focused around the core values of providing quality products at the best possible prices. As we are not a high street shop we do not have the huge rents and overheads, enabling us to pass those savings directly to our customers.

Rhys now leads the sales team and highlights the fact that now more than half our customers don't wait for their goods but benefit from our enormous stocks and ability to deliver without delay.

He adds that at The Place for Homes we trade with a simple philosophy: "To supply our customers with quality products at the best prices and to provide excellent customer service and that's why our customers keep coming back!"



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CLEARING AWAY THE SNOW: JUST WHAT CAN YOU DO TO HELP?

**REPORT
by PHILIP
IRWIN**

NOW that the snow has gone (hopefully, for good) The GEM finds it has a bulging postbag on the subject of what residents and traders should do about snow clearing.

The GEM's original article on the subject (January 6) asked whether it was true that older Vale residents were more likely to clear away snow.

In response, we were

quoted fine examples of people of all ages getting stuck into clearing snow – community spirit was alive and well, it was claimed.

However, one thing is clear – it is the threat of legal action that is cited again and again as a reason for doing nothing.

Most people agree that things get worse the longer that they are left. Soft snow that is initially quite easy to walk on soon becomes compacted.

This freezes again overnight, and if a slight

thaw occurs the following day, the walkway becomes the proverbial skating rink.

Correspondents to The GEM have suggested that the best solution is to act quickly, remove the soft snow, and apply some salt.

However, rival opinions suggest that you are then committed to maintaining that safe surface – and open to legal action should you fail to do so.

One trader who strongly believes that people should take action is Alun John, the chairman of the Cowbridge Chamber of Trade.

He said: "At a recent chamber meeting, it was felt that traders should clear their own section of pavement – and it was strongly felt that it cost us dear during the freeze."

"Word soon got round about the state of the pavements in Cowbridge, and I believe people stayed away."

"It definitely cost the town retailers business, and our advice is that if a trader goes ahead and does a good job clearing the pavement, and then puts salt down, then there should be no problem."

The GEM asked the Vale Council if it could give an unequivocal endorsement to this view, but the response was a little more guarded.

Miles Punter, head of visible services at the Vale Council, said: "Residents should take great care if addressing snow and ice on pavements and should not in

any way increase the hazards for either pedestrians or vehicles through their actions.

"For example, be careful if cleaning your drive to the highway to not leave large piles of snow for pedestrians to step over when using the footway, as this is not a safe solution."

A council spokeswoman added that the use of council grit bins could be put to use limited.

She said: "The grit is for pavements and roads only. It is not for commercial use or for use on

private property and action could be taken against anyone taking grit for their own use."

The UK Government's own website at ukdirect gave the following advice: "There's no law stopping you from clearing snow and ice on the pavement outside your home or from public spaces."

"If you clear snow and ice carefully you are unlikely to be held liable."

It goes on to give the following advice on clearing ice and snow:

• If you clear ice and

snow yourself, be careful. Don't make the pathways more dangerous by causing them to refreeze.

But don't be put off clearing paths because you're afraid someone will get injured.

• Remember, people walking on ice and snow have responsibility to be careful themselves. Follow the advice below to make sure you clear the pathway safely and effectively.

• Clear the ice or snow early in the day. It's easier to move fresh, loose snow rather than hard

snow that has packed together from people walking on it.

You can then cover the path with salt before nighttime to stop it refreezing overnight.

• Use salt or sand – not water. If you use water to melt the snow, it may refreeze and turn to black ice.

Black ice increases the risk of injuries, as it is invisible and very slippery. You can prevent

black ice by spreading some salt on the area you have cleared.

You can use ordinary table or dishwasher salt – a tablespoon for each square metre you clear should work.

If you don't have enough salt, you can also use sand or ash.

These won't stop the path icing over as well as salt, but will provide good grip under foot.

GEM READERS' VIEWS

Is it health and safety's fault?

ON the subject of clearing pavements during recent snow, could you please print in The GEM which of the following rumours are correct?

If a householder takes it upon themselves to clear the snow and ice on the pavement directly outside their property, and a passerby then has an accident due to the conditions on said pavement, is the householder responsible, and could possibly be sued for compensation by the victim?

Alternatively, if the householder does nothing to clear the snow and ice from the pavement outside their property,

and then a passerby has an accident due to the severe conditions on the pavement, the householder cannot be sued for compensation by the victim?

Possibly, if it is made clear whether the good people of Barry can clear the pavements without any comeback, then the appalling conditions which existed in Barry during the recent snowfall could be avoided. After all, it was easier and safer to walk on the roads!

Rosemary Dungey, Barry.
PS: I come from a generation where in 1947 and 1963 we all did our 'bit' before health and safety was brought in. We called it 'survival' and 'helping your neighbour'!

Can we clear the snow?

HAVING read the recent GEM article on responsibility for snow clearing during the recent bad weather, and being of an age to remember 1947 and 1963, I was quite willing to clear the pavement outside my home.

However, I was informed that by doing so I would be personally responsible for any accident that may occur to other people by my efforts, incurring hefty compensation claims.

On enquiry with other people, including traders with shop fronts, it was confirmed that this was so. If you could clarify this in an article in your paper it would be most appreciated, as we would be only too happy to get off our backsides and show some old fashioned gumption.

Jean and John Carmichael, Barry

'My boys did their bit to clear snow!'

I VERY much agree that snow would be far easier to deal with if householders did their bit and cleared their own paths and pavements.

However, I was a bit upset that anyone should think that no young people bother these days.

One of my sons and his wife, who live in a cul-de-sac, spent a day with neighbours, clearing the road and thoroughly enjoyed the community spirit.

Another of my sons walked the distance from his home near Barry Cemetery to my home in Hanover Court, to help clear our paths. The council had kindly supplied us with bags of grit but few of the over-55s here are fit enough to dig in freezing temperatures.

Of course I'm very proud of my boys – both in their 30s – but I know they weren't the only younger people who did their bit to help themselves and others.

Karen McCann, Barry

Rotary plays the generation game!



ABOVE: Speakers line-up at Dinas Powys Rotary.

LAST Thursday evening, Dinas Powys Rotary Club welcomed families to the club's Two Generations Night at the Golf Club.

Team Wales' Chef de Mission Chris Jenkins, a special guest, explained the importance of the Commonwealth Games for Wales.

The first speakers were the four young people who with the support of Dinas Powys Rotary Club attended the Rotary RYLA course (Rotary Young Leadership Award) at the Dolygaer Outdoor Education Centre in the Brecon Beacons during August 2010.

Nick Williams, Kieran Jones, Gareth

Davies and Lauran Keeping gave an excellent presentation. The activities included abseiling, rock climbing, caving, canoeing, map reading and water sports.

They later received their RYLA certificates from club president, Dennis O Shea.

Chris Jenkins spoke about problems related to the 2010 Commonwealth Games, which included delays in the construction of main venues, infrastructural compromise, possibility of a terrorist attack, and exceptionally poor ticket sales before the event.

Chris and other team members arrived early in Delhi and helped to ensure the games went ahead on time.

"Athletes have such affection for the Commonwealth Games," said Chris, "as they don't get to compete for Wales very often, and I know that winning in a red vest is very important."

Chris reported impressive performances by the Welsh team, including debutants 18-year-old track cyclist Becky James, who won silver and bronze and 19-year-old boxer and silver medallist Sean McGoldrick.

A vote of thanks was given to Chris by club secretary Rotarian David Williams.

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SIXTH FORM OPEN EVENING

An open evening for students considering taking their AS/A2 Level studies or L3 BTEC courses will be held on

**Tuesday, 1 February
between 4.30 pm and 6.30 pm**

Environmental award for St Brides Primary school



ABOVE:

The proud youngsters display the award.

THE St Brides Major Church in Wales Primary school has been awarded a 'provincial environmental award' from 'Church Action on Sustaining the Environment.'

The school has an

active eco club and enthusiastic eco committee, members of which are representatives on the national schools' eco committee.

Headteacher, Mrs Clare Matthews said she was delighted that the children have been recognised for their hard work and commitment.

Back to the fuchsia!

THE next meeting of the Cowbridge Gardening Club will be held on Thursday, January 27 in the Lesser Town Hall at 7.30pm, when Mr John Donnelly will be giving a talk entitled 'All about fuchsias'.

We welcome existing members back for a new season and look forward to welcoming new members. We wish you all a happy New Year and good gardening.

Art society meets

COWBRIDGE Art Society meets on Thursday, January 20 at 7pm in Old Hall, High Street, when there will be an organised practical.

Non-members are welcome to attend.

23:59

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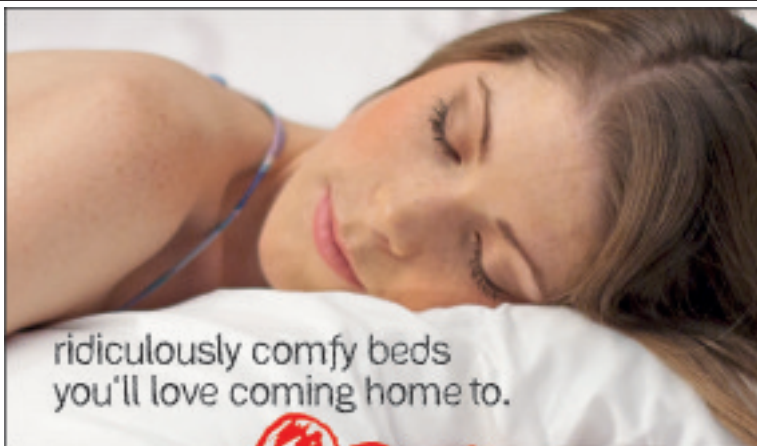
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Abandoned kittens now fit and well (after some TLC) and will soon be up for adoption

Meet two little fighters who survived big freeze!

ONE Christmas story in The GEM has had a happy ending...

Readers may recall the sad tale of two tiny kittens who were callously left out in a cardboard box in the ice and snow – in the worst of the December freeze.

The two kittens, who were named Frost and Freeze when they arrived at the Bridgend Cat Adoption Centre, were abandoned, along with another five cats, in sub-zero temperatures.

Sue Dobbs, the adoption centre manager, told The GEM: "I thought I'd let GEM readers have an update on the kittens, as you kindly featured them in your paper for us."

"The two kittens proved to be real fighters and although it was tough and go with Freeze for the first couple of days, she was a determined little kitten and with lots of TLC from her foster mum she started to pull through."

"As you can see from the photograph (top, right) they are now fit and healthy and will soon be available for adoption."

The Bridgend Adoption Centre is in Bryncethin, and can be contacted on 01656 722012, or by e-mail at bridgend.manager@cats.org.uk



FROST AND FREEZE...
A happy ending

ABOVE:
Frost and Freeze as they are now.

LEFT and RIGHT:
The kittens were fed by hand when they arrived at the cat adoption centre.

Photographs by
MANDY THOMAS
www.mandythomasphotography.co.uk

New head pleased with report at Colcot

THE Headteacher, staff, governors, pupils and parents at Colcot School this week welcomed a "very successful inspection report".

The school's current performance and its prospects for improvement were graded 'Good', with inspectors highlighting the following:

A welcoming ethos ensures that pupils feel safe and secure; pupils are well-behaved, happy and enjoy learning; pupils develop effective social and life skills; most make secure progress during their time in school; there are effective levels of support for the less able pupils; and links with parents and the local community are effective.

A spokeswoman reported that the inspection team found the school's outcomes and teaching are 'good' and all pupils have positive attitudes. Pupils are keen to take on responsibility to demonstrate respect for each other.

It was noted in the report that the school gives good value for money, providing a range of after-school clubs, breakfast club and lunch-time activities.

"Headteacher, Mrs Cule has been made to feel very welcome at Colcot Primary School since her appointment in September 2010 and is pleased that the inspection team recognised the hard work of all staff and members of the school community."

It is clear that for all involved in the school, the children's learning and well being are at its heart."

'I'm yours – for a lunchtime!' 'SLAVE AUCTION' RAISES £84 FOR MEALS CHARITY



ABOVE: Pupils who took part in the fundraising.

BRYN HAFREN pupils started the new term with charity work on their mind.

Team Enterprise group 'Believe to Achieve' launched straight into fundraising in their first week back to school. Michael Jones organised a slave auction, said: "With Christmas over, I wanted to do something for my team's chosen charity 'Mary's meals'."

"I managed to persuade some of my friends to take part,

and they offered themselves as a 'slave' for lunchtime to any form who wanted to buy them. It was a bit of fun and everyone enjoyed themselves."

Mr Allen, head of key stage 5, who conducted the auction, said: "To start off, bids were a little slow, but then everyone got into the swing of it."

"Callum Twomey proved a particularly popular sixth former and raised a lot of money! The students are to be commended for their enthusiasm in fundraising."

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FOLLOW THE (Vale) LEADER**Churchill film is the highlight of Holocaust Memorial Day events**

THIS is the fourth year that the Vale of Glamorgan Council has taken part in the national commemoration of Holocaust Memorial Day (HMD), held annually on January 27, the date recognising the liberation of Auschwitz.

This year we have organised an exhibition, 'Untold Stories', at the Art Central gallery in the County Library, Barry.

The exhibition brings together personal reminiscences from residents of the Vale and across Wales.

Vale resident, Eileen Younghusband, recalls her time as a World War II, V2 bomber spotter and youngsters from Stanwell School have also contributed their 'Untold Stories', including stories about their own families' war time

experiences.

At the beginning of the month, we held a very successful launch for the exhibition.

Bethan Heslop and Catryn Williams, year-13 students from Ysgol Gyfun Bro Morgannwg, gave an interesting presentation to the large audience about a school trip to Auschwitz-Birkenau Memorial and State Museum, which obviously made a great impression on all the students who visited the site.

The Art Central exhibition is open until February 26 and is well worth a visit.

Last year, as part of our HMD commemorations, we were proud to host the UK premiere of 'Against the Tide', produced by the Simon Wiesenthal Centre of Los Angeles.

This year the centre has asked us to premiere its new film *Winston Churchill: Walking With Destiny*.

The film focuses on Winston Churchill's years in the political wilderness, his early opposition to Hitler's rule, his support for Jews under threat from the Nazi regime, his return to government and ascension to the Prime Minister's office in 1940.

The premiere will take place at the Barry Memorial Hall and Theatre on January 27 at 7.30pm.

Free tickets for the film premiere can be booked on the theatre website memorial-halltheatre.co.uk or by calling 01446 738622.

New services

Finally, I'd like to tell you about some new services we are offering. If you have youngsters in primary school, your family might be interested in our new school lunch website.

The site includes information for parents, lesson plans for teachers and games for the children. You can find the site at www.myschool-lunch.co.uk/glamorgan.

Our online planning register has been improved and residents can now access live information on planning applications – with changes to records appearing on the register almost immediately – removing the previous 24-hour delay experienced on the old system.

The home page also has a new look, improving the feel of the system and matching it up with the council's website for ease of navigation.

The improvements are part of an ongoing programme of work to bring planning enforcement and building regulation information online. You can access the new-look planning register at

<http://vagonline.planning-register.co.uk/>

We have also introduced a single number, 01446 403000, for all our leisure centres.

Whether your call relates to swimming lessons, gym membership, booking a party, hiring facilities or anything else, residents now only have to remember one number.



by **Coun GORDON KEMP**
Leader of the Vale Council

Members look back (and then forward!)

LLANHARRY WI NEWS

ON January 4, president Jill Rosser welcomed everyone to the first meeting of 2011, and Toni Farrant jogged memories with the minutes for November and December.

Lil Merry reminded members that subscriptions were due and the county Newsletter gave details of future events.

For those who wish to travel further afield, a Gloucester

City walk is on April 14. The half yearly council meeting will be on May 4, at Porthcawl, when the guest speaker will be singer and radio presenter, Beverley Humphries.

Whatever the weather conditions, the Lunch Club continues to meet every month and The Bear, Llanharri, is the venue on January 21.

Detective Chief Inspector Sally Burke was introduced, who shared her experi-

ences regarding specialist crime and outlined her day-to-day challenges.

During social time, tea, coffee, cakes and chocolates were provided by Joy Brooking and Rita Butt.

The competition for 'My favourite Christmas Card' was won by Margaret Edwards.

The next meeting is on February 1, when the talk will be 'Welsh girls in domestic service'.
JR

Appeal from the 'Recycling King'!

A teenager who attends Ashgrove Special School in Penarth is developing a reputation as one of the country's great 'recyclers'.

Last year, Josh Hurley, aged 14, collected an astonishing 37,000 Christmas cards to be recycled – and now he is aiming to beat that figure.

Josh told The GEM: "I won a Vale Council 'special merit certificate' for the amount of cards I collected last year, but this year I'm hoping to beat that figure and get

up to 40,000!

"If people would like to support me they can drop any cards in at Ashgrove School. I'm desperate to beat the target. I'm interested in a career in recycling when I'm older."

If people would like to support Josh, they should drop the cards into the school which is located on Sully Road.

Sandy Snell, one of the school's administration assistants, said: "Josh is a recycling king. He also collects the Yellow Pages when they are out of date to make sure they are not wasted too."

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VALE MP's VIEWPOINT

THE Welsh Assembly Government has decided to ignore the UK government policy to introduce a cancer drug fund.

This is a tragic decision and it is a policy that will mean that life-extending cancer drugs that are available in England will not be available to patients here in Wales, in spite of Wales being given the funding for it.

Devolution naturally

allows the Welsh Assembly Government to decide how best to spend the money allocated to Wales. The UK government decided to protect the NHS and to make cut backs elsewhere, whereas the Welsh Assembly Government has chosen to cut health and fund other policy areas.

Essentially this means that if you are suffering from cancer in Wales, you will not get access to a £200M cancer drugs fund that is available to

patients in England.

I think this is a tragic set of circumstances and hope that the Assembly Government will re-think their policy.

MPs are lobbied on a number of policy areas, but few things have angered patients more than this. Cancer charities, victims and professional bodies have all expressed concern to me and my colleagues that the situation could lead to better survival rates in England and Scotland,



Vale MP Alun Cairns reports to GEM readers

than here in Wales. A similar situation

occurred some years ago over the treatment of prostate cancer. In Wales, brachytherapy wasn't initially available here, although it was used regularly in England. In the end, WAG were forced to back down after hearing of individual cases.

I raised the matter in the House of Commons chamber and Andrew Lansley had to say that it was a matter for the Welsh Assembly Government, although he

hoped they would follow suit.

When I have raised the matter with the Assembly Government, they advise me that they prefer to fund prescriptions and free car parking. This cannot be right.

Anyone who was over 60 or claiming any form of benefit used to have free prescriptions and should continue to do so. However, I do think that anyone in full time employment should pay their £5 or so for their

prescriptions, so that others can benefit from life extending cancer drugs.

If anyone is in the tragic situation of not receiving the cancer drug that they believe they need, I ask them to contact me and I will do all I can to help.

It is likely to be an uphill task but I will do all I can to make them change their policies to reflect the needs here in the Vale. Of course, all matters will be dealt in the utmost privacy.

Healthy eating is the school's aim!



THE Healthy Schools Quality Award is getting underway at Llantwit Major Comprehensive, with the introduction of a SNAG (School Nutrition Action Group).

The community dietician has been in the school over recent weeks working with Miss

Newbrook to encourage and promote nutrition and healthy eating.

Tasting sessions have been carried out during lunch times to promote healthy dishes. Similarly, the SNAG have been carrying out surveys with students to discuss healthy eating issues.

Claim cash for war sites visits, urges Bridgend MP

WORLD War Two veterans have been urged to take advantage of a scheme that provides grants to help them go on commemorative visits.

Bridgend MP Madeleine Moon said that the Heroes Return 2 programme run by the Big Lottery Fund provides grants to help veterans to commemorate events that led to the end of World War Two.

"Grants can be provided for spouses and carers to travel with veterans, and war widows and widowers are also eligible for funding.

"Awards of between £150 and £5,500 are available, depending on the destination and the number of people taking part. The scheme has been extended, with the final deadline for applications now January 31, 2012," she explained.

Mrs Moon has contacted representatives of the Royal British Legion in Bridgend to make sure that they are aware of the scheme.

She commented: "I hope that as many war veterans living in the Bridgend constituency as possible are able to receive grants through the Heroes Return 2 scheme, in order that they can make their own personal journeys to the places that they saw action.

"We owe an immeasurable debt of gratitude to those who risked their lives to protect their country in the Second World War.

"I am glad that the

scheme is being extended, so that more veterans are able to commemorate the sacrifices made by themselves and their comrades."

Further information

on the grant scheme is available on the Big Lottery Fund's website at www.biglotteryfund.org.uk/heroesreturn.

HAVE YOU MADE YOUR WILL YET?

EVERY adult in the United Kingdom should consider making a Will, and here are some of the reasons why:

Without a Will, the state directs who inherits your estate, so the people you wish to benefit may get nothing.

Without a Will, if you are married you may think that your estate will pass to your spouse in any event, but this is not necessarily the case.

If you are not married to your partner, the law does not automatically recognise partners as having the same rights as husbands, wives and civil partners and your partner may get nothing.

If you have children, there may be uncertainty about who will look after or provide for them should you die.

Several persons may make a claim on your estate if you have no Will because they may depend upon you financially.

Inheritance tax issues may arise if not addressed in your Will.

Wills should be kept up to date and renewed upon any change of circumstance, for example, marriage, divorce, separation, upon having a child or upon the death of a loved one.

Excluding certain beneficiaries in your Will may also cause potential difficulties as they may have the right to make a claim against your estate. Special care is therefore needed if you exclude per-

sons who might expect to benefit under your Will.

Ensure that you have a Will in place and that it is up to date to avoid any undesired consequences and complications.

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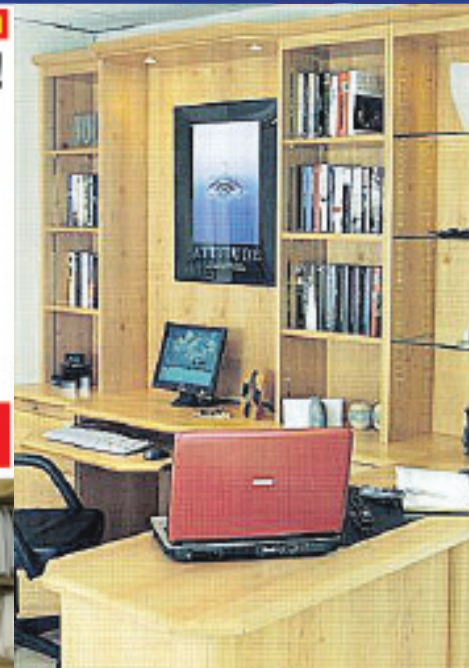


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BROADLANDS – REINVENTING THE LOCAL VILLAGE SHOPPING CENTRE

PEOPLE talk a great deal these days about the demise of village shops – but, happily, that is not the whole story.

The phrase 'village shops' conjures up a picture of general stores and haberdashers gathered around the market square, yet it is still possible to create a 'new village' – by intelligent planning.

That is certainly true at Broadlands, where the estate's shopping precinct is busy all day long, attracting locals who use it for their day-to-day needs, and custom from further afield as well!

It helps, of course, that the precinct is in the centre of all the things that are important to a village – although Broadlands is definitely a still growing village, with the estate continuing to have scope for expansion.

Clustered around the traders are Maes-yr-Haul Primary School (much in demand and now full to bursting), the local pub, a nursery, and a pharmacy and dental practice. This makes the centre a real focus for the community.

It is also an excellent base for traders who are reaching out to a wider client base by offering a specialist service.

Health and beauty needs are well catered for at The Priory, and the centre's take-aways offer a variety of fine food.

It is absolutely certain that anyone popping into Broadlands for the first time would be surprised at how much is there.

Those old village shops used to cater almost exclusively for the immediate local trade, but the 'reinvented' village concept at Broadlands has a much wider reach!

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Just Learning gains glowing inspection report

The Just Learning Nursery on Broadlands has received a glowing report from the Care & Social Services Inspectorate Wales, following its inspection in December.

The report is designed to reassure parents and carers that the nursery education and care their children received is of acceptable quality, and that any weaknesses are swiftly addressed.

Jonathan Bell, managing director of Just Learning said: "To receive independent ver-

ification and acknowledgment of the quality of care and education, and the professionalism of our staff, is excellent recognition for the nursery.

"We are very happy to report that no actions, or areas of recommended good practice were highlighted."

The recently redecorated nursery provides full day care for babies of eight weeks, through to children of five years.

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Finnegan's in line for an 'Oscar' again!



FINNEGAN'S at Broadlands shopping centre has done it again – after battling it out against tough competition throughout the principality to be awarded Wales' finest fish and chip shop for 2011.

Finnegan's are in London this week for the Fish and Chip Shop of the Year finals 2011 – competing with nine other of the UK's finest chip shops, trying to win the Best in Britain Award for 2011.

Finnegan's are no strangers to awards,

they have already won the coveted title of Best in Britain once before in 2003. No chippy has ever won this twice!

This year, the Fish and Chip Shop Oscars Awards will be presented by celebrity chef and food critic, Jay Rayner, at the Gala Lunch today (January 20). He is restaurant critic for the Observer and is one of the judges in Masterchef. He is also food reporter for the One Show.

Everyone wishes Finnegan's good luck as they bid to bring the prestigious trophy home to Wales yet again!



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LOCAL HEALTH BOARD BACKS CLOSURE OF LLANDOUGH HOSPITAL BABY UNIT

A reorganisation of local hospital services, which includes the closure of the maternity department at Llandough Hospital, is to go ahead – following the completion of a consultation period.

Health chiefs have stressed although the baby

unit in Llandough will close. Mothers-to-be in the Vale will in future be able to decide on whether to have a birth at home, or under the care of a consultant or midwife in Cardiff.

In the Vale, there has been opposition to the closure of the baby unit at Llandough because mothers will have to travel into Cardiff.

Mr Paul Holland, the

deputy chief executive and director of planning for Cardiff and Vale University Health Board, stressed that the board believed it was in the overall interests of patients.

He explained: "In terms of maternity services, women will still be able to choose where to give birth – whether that is at home, in a midwife-led unit or receiving

consultant-led care at UHW.

"Considerable investment in terms of increased staffing, additional bed capacity and major capital work has been made to ensure the best possible care is provided to mothers within the Vale and Cardiff.

"We remain committed to providing locally-based antenatal and post-natal care within the Vale, and to devel-

oping a 'home birthing team', so women have confidence in accessing local care and ongoing support during the early part of motherhood.

"The Health Board will now begin the process of implementing the changes and will make sure that patients and staff are fully informed of the progress being made," he promised.

Thieves break in to petrol station

THIEVES targeted the filling station at Stalling Down, Cowbridge, and stole a large quantity of cigarettes in a night-time raid.

They broke in between 9pm and 10pm on Sunday night (January 16) and forced entry was made through the roof. The owner, Mr Patel, told the GEM that he was offering a cash reward for any information that would lead to the goods being recovered.

A Vale Police spokesman confirmed that the police were investigating, and added: "If anyone has any information about this matter, they should contact PC Mark Goulding at Cowbridge Police Station on 101."

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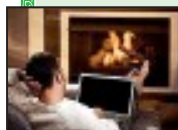
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Local table tennis player needs sponsorship to compete in Games

Paul's 'last chance' of Paralympic glory is hit by sporting catch-22

by JAYNE ISAAC

A DISABLED table tennis player who had set his sights on competing in the Paralympic Games in London next year is facing the end of his dream – unless he can get some sponsorship.

Paul Davies, aged 44, of Hall Drive, North Cornelly, is a member of the British Paralympic table tennis squad but was told last week that his funding was being removed.

His position in the squad will be reviewed in July and a decision on his future will be taken on the strength of his tournament successes between then and now.

However, he finds himself in a catch-22 situation, because without funding, Mr Davies will be unable to compete in any competitions as they all take place abroad.

He told The GEM: "There are four competitions between now and July."

"They are in Slovenia, the Netherlands, Slovakia and Romania. Without that funding to cover my expenses of about £4,500, I will be unable to go to any of them."

Mr Davies was paralysed in a motor cycle crash when he was 19. Initially, he was affected from the neck down, but movement returned to his upper body and he has been playing table tennis for the past 20 years.

Mr Davies said that table tennis was his main interest.

"It has been a life saver," he said. "I spent five years doing nothing and getting depressed, but playing table tennis has become my life. I don't know what I will do without it."

Mr Davies was shocked to be told that he

and six others were being removed from the squad to make way for younger players.

"I had only just got back from the world championships in Korea. I was unplaced but I was up against the world number one who knocked me out."

"I am ranked 10 in the world and I am the British number one in my class."

Mr Davies plays in class one, which is for people in wheelchairs. He said that he had been wrongly classed for 20 years and it was only when he was placed in this new class last year that he was able to really make his mark.

"That's why I missed earlier Paralympics," he said. "I was up against much fitter players with fewer disabilities and failed to qualify."

Since being reclassified, Mr Davies has beaten the world numbers 2, 4, 7 and 9 in competitions over the past year.

Mr Davies said that UK Sport, which gives out lottery funding, has been putting pressure on the British Disabled Table Tennis Association to reduce the size of the squad to cut costs.

They were also focusing on building a team for the 2016 Paralympics rather than using players like himself, who are older and who would compete in London.

Mr Davies said that although his funding has been taken away, unlike the other six who were dropped, he has been told that he can carry on competing until July, when he will be reviewed.

Mr Davies suffered his accident in 1986. His wife Debbie, who was then his girlfriend, was on the back of the bike at the time.

"We were travelling down from Maesteg and had gone through



LEFT:
Paul Davies' dreams of competing have been dented by the recent decision.

Coytrahen when I hit the kerb," he said. "It was a lack of concentration for just a second but it left me paralysed for life."

The couple married soon after the accident and Debbie accompanies Paul to all tournaments as his carer.

They are both from Cornelly and Paul had been working in Day's Medical Aids in Bridgend.

"I used to be making wheelchairs and now I am in one," he said. "It's ironic."

Paul has a special wheelchair for playing table tennis which is higher than usual and also has wheels that lock. He bought that himself only a year ago at a cost of £3,000.

After his accident, he had rehabilitation at Rookwood Hospital and that is when he started playing table tennis.

"I had played as a youngster in youth club and the hospital had a team, so it started from there."

Paul usually trains in Pyle Life Centre and plays against his regular partner Robert Davies, who lives in Brecon. They are coached by Neil

Robinson, who is an official GB coach.

"I train three days a week for six hours at a time. That's going on at the moment, but if in July they axe me totally, I will lose all this. Robert is only 25 and is carrying on in the squad."

Mr Davies needs to raise about £4,500 in order to compete in the international tournaments. He is hoping that local organisations and companies may be willing to make a donation.

"Unless I compete I will be unable to prove myself," he said. "I need to show that I can win tournaments and then they will consider reinstating me."

"I desperately want to compete at the London Paralympics. It is my dream and my last shot at a Paralympic title. What has happened has been very upsetting."

Mr Davies needs to register for the competitions very soon so is looking for some immediate sponsorship.

Anyone able to help can contact him by e-mail on daviespaul@aol.com or ring 07767 896106.

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The GEM cannot be held responsible for any errors or omissions contained in the above.

For lottery information please call telephone 02920 672062.

Porthcawl family tragedy: Baby is orphaned as three die in car crash

by PHILIP IRWIN

TWO families from Porthcawl have been left devastated after a crash on the M4 at Cardiff late on Monday night (January 17).

In the crash, 56-year-old Stephen Padden, his son Thomas Padden, aged 20, and Thomas's partner, 23-year-old Louise Evans, all from Porthcawl, tragically died after the red Peugeot 406 they were travelling in left the motorway at 11.30pm between junctions 32 and 33.

Thomas's mother, 51-year-old Suzanne, and the couple's six-month-old baby, Logan, were taken to

the University Hospital of Wales with less serious injuries. Suzanne was later discharged, while the baby was said to be in a stable condition.

Friends have spoken of the young couple's shared love of the sea. In fact, they were returning from a family surfing holiday in Morocco and had earlier landed at Gatwick Airport.

Tom was a champion surfer, winning the under-18 Welsh title in 2008, and he spent as much time as possible at Rest Bay, although he had grown up in Pontyclun, moving to Porthcawl four years

ago. His parents were also keen surfers.

Louise Evans came from a family where her father and two uncles were all stalwarts of Porthcawl RNLI.

Tragically, her father, Mike, died in April last year. As the longest-serving Porthcawl RNLI member, his ashes were scattered at sea.

Louise was a former pupil at Porthcawl Comprehensive School and the headteacher, Kenny Dykes, said: "The school community is devastated at the news of this tragedy."

"We extend our deepest sympathy to Louise's mum and the rest of her family at this sad time."

"Many of her teachers are still at the school and are deeply shocked and saddened. Louise was a very popular girl, well liked, friendly, and as a result had many friends."

"She enjoyed school and joined in the whole life of the school. She studied a wide range of subjects, leaving in 2003 at the end of year 11."

"All who knew her

remember her with respect and affection."

Louise and Logan were regulars at Rest Bay, watching Tom surf, and the surfing community has been deeply affected.

The chairman of the Welsh Coast Surf Club, Tom Anderson, described Tom Padden as a "fearless and intrepid surfer".

He said that word had already spread that out in Morocco, Tom had ridden the biggest wave of the season at Anka Point – a real coup for any surfer.

He added that the surfing community would do all it could to help Tom's baby.

Sgt Louise French of the Roads Policing Unit said: "We are keen to speak to anyone who witnessed the collision or who drove past soon afterwards."

"We would also welcome information from anyone who saw the vehicle being driven prior to the collision."

Anyone with information is asked to contact the Roads Policing Unit on 02920 633 438, or call Crimestoppers free on 0800 555 111.

Road closed after accident

MORNING traffic into and out of Porthcawl on Tuesday morning was disrupted after the road past Danygraig was closed for more than an hour.

A police spokesman said: "Porthcawl police were called to a road traffic collision on the A4106 which was reported at 7.48am on Tuesday, January 17."

"A black Volkswagen Lupo had tipped onto its roof and the road was closed in both directions until shortly after 9am, when the vehicle was removed."

He added: "No other vehicle was involved. No injuries have been reported."

Young Tobias is making encouraging progress

TOBIAS LUNNON, the little six-year-old boy who was paralysed in a road traffic collision last summer, is making encouraging progress.

His mother, Fiona, who remains at his bedside in Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge, told THE GEM: "Tobias is doing well at the moment, and he is out and about in his chair for longer periods of time."

"He is very aware of early changes in his breathing, which makes it easier to manage any care he needs."

"He has more feeling coming back, and to some degree he can now feel if his bladder is full."

"He has had to have the nasal gastric tube inserted again just to top up his diet, and I am hop-



LEFT: Tobias is enjoying longer breaks – out and about in his chair.

breathing pacemaker fitted, have so far reached £4,000. Tobias has already been presented with a lap top computer on which he can communicate with his school friends in Barry.

The chief fundraiser, Tracey Smith, told THE GEM: "We want to do a spring ball sometime in March. We are looking for a venue, so if someone would like to get in touch we'd love to hear from them – hopefully, the bigger the better."

Tracey can be contacted on 07827 943 623.

Mission group's thanks

THANKS to your support, it will soon be a year since we opened the Tools With A Mission (TWAM) unit in Penarth.

May we take this opportunity to thank people from the Vale for their support of the charity, which has enabled us to forward seven vanloads of unused tools and haberdashery equipment to the HQ in Ipswich – from where they will have been forwarded to developing nations. This

BARRIVALE BRIDGE NEWS

and Carol James with 55 per cent. Joint second were Helen Jordan and Judith Owen, and Mick Green and Mike Close, on 53.75. Helen and Judith won on handicap.

New members are always welcome at Barrivale. For more information, telephone 01446 733425.

Last-ditch attempt to save the Vale court

The Vale MP, Alun Cairns, has said he is meeting the courts' Minister on February 2 – in a last ditch attempt to save the Vale Magistrates Court based in Barry.

Mr Cairns will be accompanied at the meeting by Mr David Taylor, chairman of the magistrates' bench.

The court has been earmarked for closure under Coalition plans to make the system of justice more modern and efficient.

Mr Cairns said he would be underlining the "full consequences of closure" to the Minister responsible, Jonathan Djanogly MP.

Mr Cairns insisted: "The decision to close the court is wrong. I'm keen to ensure that the Minister fully appreciates the consequences of this decision."

"The costs of providing a modern court service to the residents and businesses in the Vale and, of course, the social and political ramifications of activities linked with the courthouse within our county need to be fully considered."

"Local magistrates, charitable groups and I

worked together to prepare the case supporting the court. I am agnostic at the decision and will not let it rest."

Jane Hutt, the Vale Assembly Member, also had strong words for those in Westminster, claiming that if they failed to backtrack on the decision, it would demonstrate a lack of commitment to local justice.

She protested: "The magistrates court in Barry is being closed by the UK Government despite the overwhelming opposition to this

closure from the people of Barry and the Vale of Glamorgan."

"The compelling evidence has been presented to the Ministry for Justice, backed by a petition I presented of more than 1,000 signatures."

"The Minister must reverse this decision. If he does not, it is clear that the UK Coalition Government does not care about the local justice needs of the largest town in Wales."

If closure does go ahead, the remaining court staff will be transferred within the court

system. The GEM understands that the support services total seven people – two security officers and five cleaning staff."

A spokesman for Mitie Security commented that in the event of closure, security officers would be deployed elsewhere.

A spokeswoman for the cleaning contractors OCS explained that the company's staff are continuing to provide services to the court, but she was not in a position to add any further details.

TIM CHAPMAN

Tiara Bridal Show predicts bumper turnout in Cardiff

Following the announcement of the forthcoming royal wedding, Wales' longest-established bridal show is predicting a strong turnout at their January show due to an increased number of proposals over the Christmas and New Year period!

A spokeswoman for the organisers of the Tiara Bridal Show this Sunday, January 23 at Cardiff's City Hall said they are predicting a rise in the number of spring weddings:

"We are already hearing from many brides-to-be that they have decided to bring their weddings forward so that they can get married in the same month as William and Kate. "We already know that there have

been an increased number of proposals over the festive period, spurred on by royal wedding excitement."

"We expect that there will be more couples than usual at this year's bridal show as brides will be looking to finalise their arrangements very quickly."

"For those brides with a date set for April, this is the perfect opportunity to start planning their perfect day. There are three fashion shows taking place throughout the course of the afternoon and visitors will also have the opportunity to enter a competition to win a free hen and stag weekend, worth £700 each," she added.

For more information on the Tiara Bridal Show, visit www.ladiesfirst.co.uk

Events organisers are urged to join Vale's new initiative

WHEN thinking of rural events, we often conjure up images of a local village fete with one person on the microphone and maybe some stalls selling homemade wares – but, in the Vale of Glamorgan, things are changing.

Local rural event organisers are being encouraged to join a new initiative set up by the Vale of Glamorgan Council, the Rural Events Network (REN).

The network, which was set up in 2009 supports its members by offering free hire of event equipment and free networking and advice sessions.

Event organisers in the rural Vale can become members of the network and take advantage of the equipment available which includes gazebos, two way radios, high-visibility jackets and hand wash units.

Since it was established, the network has grown to 20 members, arranging events from large scale operations like the Cowbridge Food and Drink Festival to smaller community events – including switching on Christmas lights and local community fetes.

One local event that has taken full advantage of the network is the annual Penmark Music Festival. Gavin Davies, a

member of the Penmark Village Centre committee which organises the event, spoke about the advantages and benefits of becoming a member.

"This year was the fourth annual Penmark Musical Festival and since becoming part of the REN network we decided that this year we would take advantage of the free equipment available."

"Having the use of such essential event equipment has not only saved us hundreds of pounds but it also helped the event run smoothly and more efficiently. As there are only about 60 houses in Penmark putting on a large event like this means a lot of work for our village committee so for us the support and equipment was invaluable."

"The gazebos came in particularly handy as holding an outdoor music festival is risky in Wales and the gazebos were there just in case the heavens decided to open."

"It is fantastic that our local council is supporting rural events. These type of events are an integral part in bringing communities closer together and I would encourage anyone thinking of holding an event in the Vale of Glamorgan to become a member. We will certainly be using the REN equipment at the festival next year."

REN holds regular events where its members can get together and

share best practise, good and bad experiences and recommend suppliers. It is hoped that with the continued growth of the Network, rural events in the Vale of Glamorgan will continue to prosper and grow in size and popularity.

Sarah Jones, events officer for the Vale of Glamorgan Council and director of the Rural Events Network, commented: "I am extremely happy with the response that REN has had so far from its members."

"As the network continues to grow, we are hoping that more and more event organisers will share their experiences and therefore help to create a range of diverse and entertaining events across the rural Vale."

If you are interested in joining the Rural Events Network please contact Sarah Jones on sarajones@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk 01446 704737.

(See advertisement on page 22)

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Council may start employing own traffic wardens

THE Vale Council is considering whether to set up its own team of traffic wardens – after South Wales Police withdrew them from the area.

The plan was due to be considered yesterday (January 19) at a council cabinet meeting.

A council spokeswoman said: "While the police can still issue parking tickets, it is recognised that a traffic warden service is also needed to help keep traffic moving freely."

However, the estimated set up costs are surprising – totalling £300,000, and are detailed in a report by council officers.

This says that to acquire the necessary legal powers, the council will have to formally apply to the Assembly for a 'designation order' which would decriminalise parking enforcement throughout the Vale.

From that date, South Wales Police will be unable to enforce the majority of parking-related offences, apart from obstruction.

The report says that the application is estimated to take around eight to 12 months to complete, with the Assembly requiring a minimum of six months to process the application from the date of receipt.

The council will have to check that all its traffic orders and signs will be compatible and will not leave legal loopholes.

The report says: "This is a major undertaking estimated to cost £170,000 and forms a large part of the set up costs."

Responders appeal for new members

First Responders in the Vale have made an urgent appeal for more members in Cowbridge, St Athan, Rhosce, Llantwit Major and Penarth.

Spokesman Brian Foley explained: "Our volunteers lead normal lives, but commit their spare time, responding at any time of the day or night to 999 emergency calls in the local commu-

"In addition to this, a comprehensive consultation exercise would have to be undertaken."

Parking tickets are likely to be £70 or £50, depending on the offence, with a 50 per cent discount if paid within 14 days.

The report notes that during a 12-month period in 2008/09, the two wardens who worked in the Vale issued 3,700 tickets.

Therefore, if the average revenue per ticket were to be, for example, £50, those two wardens would generate £185,000 for the Vale Council.

However, despite the potential large revenue, the £300,000 set-up costs did put off Bridgend County Borough Council, which at the moment has no plans to do the same.

Who knows, perhaps the Vale Council could hire out traffic wardens to Bridgend? – for a small fee of course.

Coun Geoff Cox, the cabinet member for visible and building Services, said: "As the local highway authority, the council decides where parking and traffic restrictions are needed to keep traffic moving safely and freely."

"However, the council has no power to enforce these restrictions as this currently rests with South Wales Police traffic wardens."

"It is necessary for the council to consider taking on these powers at this time, in order to ensure that our highways continue to be properly managed and the interests of our residents and businesses are protected."

nity. We are recruiting volunteers across the Vale and a new recruit training course is scheduled to take place in March.

"The teams are desperate to boost their numbers to increase their contribution to their local communities."

For further information on defibrillator courses, telephone 02920 932917, or email info@vale-responders-wales.org.uk.



Glamorgan GEM

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Chicken Princess
(breast of chicken cooked in a white wine and cheese sauce).

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Sole Mornay - Fillets of sole, cooked in white wine and cheese sauce

Pork Tenderloin, cooked in massala wine, onions and mushrooms, served with rice.

Vegetarian Option - choice given

All served with two vegetables of the day and saute potatoes

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♥ Valentine's ♥

Monday, 14th February

2 Course Meal only £15.95

3 Course Meal only £17.95

Booking Advisable

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INCENTIVE FOR GOOD SERVICE IN VALE Hygiene ratings will help diners choose just where to take their business...

CUSTOMERS eating out in the Vale will now be better informed about the hygiene standards of the food outlets they're visiting – thanks to the introduction of a new scheme.

From January 1, the Vale Council joined the National Food Hygiene Rating Scheme (NFHRS).

The scheme has been developed by the Food Standards Agency (FSA) in partnership with local authorities and business representatives, and provides information on food hygiene standards to help people to choose where to eat out or shop for food.

Food outlets such as restaurants, takeaways and pubs are inspected



Coun Hunter Jarvie, cabinet member for public protection, and Kate Thompson, principal regulatory services officer, with representatives from two food businesses within the Vale who are taking part in the scheme.

by the council's environmental health officers to check that their hygiene standards meet legal requirements.

The hygiene standards are rated on a scale ranging from zero at the bottom (meaning 'urgent improvement necessary') to a top rating of five ('very good').

A Vale Council

spokeswoman said the ratings will be available for anyone to view on the Food Standards Agency website from the end of February at food.gov.uk/ratings.

Food businesses will be encouraged to display a sticker and certificate at the entrance to their premises.

This means customers can easily see the ratings and decide if they want to go in.

In preparation, environmental health officers are running workshops for local food businesses over the next six months. The first was held last week at the council's Civic Offices.

Coun Hunter Jarvie, cabinet member for public protection, said: "We are participating in the National Food Hygiene Rating Scheme as we can see the benefits for local food businesses

and the people that eat and shop in them.

He said: "The public will be able to use the ratings when deciding which outlets to visit, and we hope that food companies will recognise that displaying a good hygiene rating is good for business."

"When customers expect to see a rating, there is a real incentive for food businesses to seek to make improvements to their hygiene standards."

Catrina Stewart, head of the food hygiene ratings team at the Food Standards Agency, added: "We are encouraging as many local authorities as possible to run the scheme, so it's great news that the Vale Council is the latest to announce its intention to participate."

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 21)

The Four Bells

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Saturday, 12th February - Valentines Meal + R&B Duo

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Glamorgan GEM

Food for Thought



HYGIENE RATINGS TO HELP DINERS

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 20)

She added: "Around one million people suffer from food poisoning every year, and our aim in introducing the scheme is to reduce this. The ratings will give consumers a glimpse of what is going on in the kitchen when they eat out, or behind the scenes."

Celts stick together for a dining tradition!

It is fair to class the rivalry between Wales and Scotland as 'friendly'.

After all, it's not as if they are English!

As a result, the Welsh have always had a soft spot for Burns Night – with its promise of good hearty eating and perhaps some fine malt whiskies to savour.

Of course, thanks to the Scottish dialect, some of the poems may be a little hard to decipher, but that hardly matters as the evening unwinds!

The latest establishment to embrace the Burns Night tradition is the Cross Inn at Llanblethian, which will be staging a dinner on January 25.

It will include a "sumptuous" three-course menu with all the Scottish trimmings, including a piper.

Not just any piper, but "the piping professor" Alan Harrison, who has started a gourmet society in south-east Wales, entitled the International Wine & Food Society (IWFS).

The dinner will be a joint venture between the restaurant and the society.

The landlord of the Cross Inn, Arthur O'Leary, said: "As a discerning gourmet, Alan had been looking for an excellent restaurant to be involved with the Burns dinner."

"He visited us in December and said: 'I need look no further!'. He has requested a special menu of the highest

standard to reflect the spirit of a Robert Burns festive event."

Since Arthur and his son Liam took over the Cross Inn, they have set about carving out a gourmet reputation for the pub, which is a free house.

Bar meals are served, as well as the restaurant menu, where choices range from Welsh black beef steaks to home-smoked duck, home-made focaccia bread, pan-seared scallops with smoked haddock and spinach mousse with crisp basil leaves.

There is also Barberry duck breast with parsnip and potato mash with a confit of butternut squash.

Desserts include Belgian chocolate marquis infused with raspberries, or something simple such as home-made short bread biscuits, served with a selection of coffees.

Just about everything is made in-house from food that is mainly sourced from within the principality.

Arthur and Liam say they have a great passion to get it right.

Arthur promised: "This old inn will make its mark on Robert Burns Night by offering its guests a whole social and highly gastronomic experience".

LOCAL PUB'S CHARITY 'THANK YOU'

THE Three Horseshoes in Moulton is organising a special charity night in aid of LATCH – as a 'thank you' from the landlord, Richard Peters and his family.

On offer is an evening of live entertainment, including a singer, and 60s, 70s and 80s music, with curry and rice, all for just £10 – with the whole amount going to the charity.

Richard's thank you gesture comes after the family had to get through a nightmare health scare last summer when their six-year-old daughter was rushed into hospital.

A brain tumour was diagnosed and an operation carried out – followed by a course of intensive treatment.

Richard said:

"Thankfully, she is on the road to recovery now, but the help that we received from LATCH was so fantastic that we wanted to do something to say thank you."

Their daughter is now a member of LATCH, and attends events on behalf of the charity.

She is also able to meet families who are facing a similar crisis and help reassure them.

Richard added: "We are well aware that we are the lucky ones. For some families, the outcome is not so good."

"LATCH helps everyone, and I know from personal experience what wonderful work they do."

To book a ticket, telephone 01446 710428. The Three Horseshoes is also offering a 'pick up and drop off' service for the evening, priced at £5.

BURNS NIGHT at the Cross Inn

Llanblethian, Cowbridge, CF71 7JF



We aim to achieve a good balance between fine cuisine in the Scottish context and the expectations of those who look for all the ceremony at a Burns Dinner

In association with the International Wine & Food Society
Tuesday, 25th January, 2011
£25.50 per head

To book please telephone

01446 772995

for the menu please see pub events at
www.crossinncowbridge.com

We are easy to find – just travel to the west end of Cowbridge High Street and take the B4270 Llantwit Major road and we are 400 metres on the left.

The Three Horseshoes

Moulton, Nr Barry

Kids eat for £1

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CALLING ALL EVENTS ORGANISERS IN THE RURAL VALE

THE NETWORK'S FIRST EVENT OF 2011 WILL BE HELD
AT THE **BEAR HOTEL, COWBRIDGE** ON
THURSDAY 27TH JANUARY FROM 10AM TO 12 NOON

Everyone is welcome to attend and we will be joined by Louise McGuinness, festival and events co-ordinator at Adventa and Aneurin Hughes, senior licensing officer, Vale of Glamorgan Council.

The Network will also be launching it's new website.

For more information or to register please contact Sarah Jones
on 01446 704737 or email: sejones@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk

www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk



Cronfa Amaethyddol Ewrop ar gyfer Datblygu
Gwledig Ewrop yn Buddsoddi
mewn Ardaloedd Gwledig
The European Agricultural Fund for
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Rural Areas



Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru
Welsh Assembly Government

Out and About with The GEM

Firth, Rush and Bonham Carter all deliver outstanding performances...

ROYAL DRAMA IS OF THE HIGHEST CALIBRE!

COLIN FIRTH has been putting together a body of work over the last few years that has been mightily impressive.

Having mixed more serious work such as *And When Did You Last See Your Father* and *Genova* with more populist fare such as *St Trinians* and *Mamma Mia!*, the thread between them all has been that Firth has been the best thing in them. Having gained huge acclaim for last year's *A Single Man* (though missing out on the Oscar to Jeff Bridges), there has been a similar groundswell for both Firth and his fellow actors, writer and director, with *The King's Speech*.

Firth plays King George VI, who reluctantly assumes the throne when his brother (played by Guy Pearce) stands down. Plagued by a stammer and considered unfit to be king, George, or Bertie as he was known, engages the help of an unorthodox speech therapist named Lionel Logue (Geoffrey Rush).

As Logue helps Bertie overcome his stammer, the threat of war looms over Britain, and Bertie must stand tall at his nation's hour of need...

By now the overwhelming praise afforded to *The King's Speech* has made the film some-

thing of a revelation, the film being met with universal praise and credit. So, is Screen Talk going to be the column that bursts the film's bubble?

The answer is a resounding no, as *The King's Speech* is an absolutely captivating, hugely impressive piece of work that has been rightly hailed from the rooftops.

Much of the credit for this lies with screenwriter David Seidler, who takes what could have been a stuffy, pretentious look at this moment in history, and yet turns it into something moving, witty and wholly engaging.

Despite a cinematic CV suggesting anything but quality (2008's *King Fu Killer* leaping out), Seidler earns his spurs here, drawing out the humanity of the characters and their situations, and making the royal family seem that little bit more human.

There is little time for pomp and ceremony (the coronation is shown as a wall projection as the newly-crowned king and family watch it), Seidler instead focusing on characters.

He takes great delight in crashing the worlds of royalty and the common man (in Logue) together, whether it be Logue talking to Queen Elizabeth from the toilet or the royal pair visiting Logue at his home for tea, and he spins the occasional friction into the exchanges between the pair during their therapy, as Bertie is

SCREEN TALK



by GARETH JAMIESON

slowly persuaded that Logue is more than just a smooth-talking man peddling false remedy.

It borrows a touch from the romantic comedy template, the pair undergoing the same path as all those mismatched couples that ultimately end up together, and while that (and its historic basis) lends it a degree of inevitability, it is still nonetheless vastly watchable.

In the director's chair, Tom Hooper is similarly revelatory. Having helmed *The Damned United*, the director continues that film's tone of capturing the moment and not being too intrusive of the scene, and the restrained direction is a joy to watch.

With a knowing subtlety that conveys his faith in the screenplay, Hooper shoots with skill and style while capturing the backroom hullabaloo of death and abdications with a keen eye for the character.

With a muted colour scheme, he mines the most from his locations, whether it's Logue's treatment room which doubles as a confessional for a king opening up to a commoner, or the royal households that show doubt and fragility beneath their veneer of poise, bringing the film richly and vividly to life without being overly

flashy.

Colin Firth has been rightly highlighted for his performance (claiming a Golden Globe on Sunday evening), but his is one of three absolutely mesmerising turns from actors who clearly relish getting the bit between their teeth. As the monarch unable to properly articulate himself, Firth is incredible, capturing and conveying the numerous emotions Bertie goes through on his journey from son of a king to king himself.

It is a turn that veers from nobility, to anger, to resignation, to doubt, to fear; it is an all-encompassing turn from the actor who never over-eggs the pudding, the performance naturalistic yet full of heart.

Much like Helen Mirren's turn as the Queen, Firth allows us under the royalty and inside the man, and makes for a thoroughly engaging protagonist.

Opposite him, Geoffrey Rush offers a turn that is a sublime lesson in delivering an exceptional turn while complementing the performance opposite it.

Rush takes great delight in Logue's peculiar methods and idiosyncrasies, and his turn is the perfect counterpoint to Firth. Acting as more than merely a speech therapist, at times a confidant, Rush underpins the film and his relationship with Firth is played out and observed beautifully.

The third fine turn comes from Helena Bonham Carter, as Bertie's wife and future Queen Mother, who shows a quick wit and a steely determination to help her husband as best she can.

Despite the focus being on the relationship between Bertie and Logue, she helps to make the edges all that more watchable with a wonderfully withering

turn as the support behind her husband and king.

The supporting cast are all uniformly superb and hit the right notes, from Guy Pearce's playboy prince whose desire to marry his divorced lover throws the monarchy into disarray, to Derek Jacobi's haughty archbishop and Michael Gambon's King George V, whose turn hints at the supposed ill treatment of Bertie that led to him developing his stutter.

If the beats feel a touch familiar, it is a criticism rendered obsolete come the film's climax when the titular speech takes place; fans of underdog sporting dramas will have an inkling how it will play out but the scene itself is an absolute joy, as Logue gently conducts Bertie through the speech with skill and grace.

Quite how you can manage to draw such emotion from a simple speech is testament to the skills of Seidler's writing and Hooper's direction, and is endemic of the film as a whole – a gripping story that is treated with just the right reverence to make it an unmissable cinematic experience.

VERDICT – An excellent piece of work, *The King's Speech* is an absolutely exceptional film that removes the layers of an incredible story to really get inside it. The three main performances all deserve the plaudits coming to them, Colin Firth, Geoffrey Rush and Helena Bonham Carter delivering incredible turns, while David Seidler's screenplay and Tom Hooper's direction make for a marriage made in heaven.

A superb look at a moment in British history, shorn of the historical weight, *The King's Speech* truly is incredible. Essential viewing.

Rising musical star meets some very special children...

RISING star Sophie Evans, who will be playing the lead role of Dorothy in performances of Andrew Lloyd Webber's musical *The Wizard of Oz*, recently met some very special children at Ty Hafan.

Although runner-up in the Over the Rainbow TV series, Sophie will be performing in the Tuesday evening performance starting in March.

The 17-year-old from Tonypandy recently appeared at the children's charity ball in London and after meeting a young lady who spends time at the hospice, she was keen to learn more about the work carried out there.

"It was not at all how I was expecting it to be," commented Sophie. "Ty Hafan is a wonderful homely and happy place with bright colours everywhere and lots for the children to do."

"I am so pleased I was able to visit and see first hand the difference it can make to life-limited youngsters and their families."



ABOVE: Sophie making friends.



Sophie signs her handprint and rainbow on the wall.

Society talk

THE Flat Holm Society has invited Richard Marks of West Wales Wildlife Society to give an illustrated talk on conserving wildlife in the Vale of Glamorgan.

His presentation will cover many aspects of habitat conservation, including that of rare plants and butterflies.

A society spokeswoman said: "Richard has a wealth of knowledge and expertise in his field and has spent much of his life working in conservation – specialist work that is vital in saving rare and often little-known species from extinction, such as our true Welsh daffodil."

The talk will take place at Cardiff's City Hall (Room E) on Wednesday, January 26 at 7.30pm, (£2, members £1). All are welcome.

HOST FAMILIES URGENTLY REQUIRED to accommodate European students. Short or long stay. Excellent remuneration. Telephone Chris on 01792 460085 or mobile 07876 497459

Shamones live in West End...



THIS Saturday (January 22), The Shamones, a tribute to the iconic New York punk band The Ramones, will play live at Barry's West End Club.

The band features bass player Bryn Merrick who played with punk idols The Damned for 10 years.

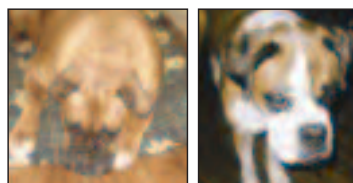
Guitarist Andy Johnson and drummer Dave Johnson complete this 3-piece punk tribute.

Supporting it is Llantwit/St Athan punk band 'Fallen Through'. Admission is free. For further info contact: andy.johnson1960@ntlworld.com

Planning for the Vale's Eisteddfod

THERE will be an informal meeting on Monday, January 24, at the Red Cross Hut on the Broadshoard at 7.30pm for anyone interested in fundraising for the National Eisteddfod, which is coming to the Vale in 2012. Everyone is welcome.

Cynhelir cyfarfod anffurfiol nos Lun Ionawr 24 yn Stafell y Groes Goch ar y Broadshoard i unrhyw un sydd a diddordeb mewn codi arian tuag at yr Eisteddfod Genedlaethol syn'n dod i'r Fro yn 2012. Croeso i bawb. Am fwy o fanylion ffoniwch Cath ar 01446 774530.

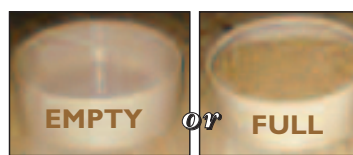


The GEM 2011 Pet Food Appeal

More than ever, our local animal shelters are under massive strain to home and feed an ever growing number of pets, that, for one reason or another, are no longer in their own homes.

Even a gift of one tin of food will be appreciated.

If you can help feed a sheltered animal this winter, please bring your pet food donation to The GEM in Cowbridge and we will get it to one of the local shelters.



Thank you, from all the animals!

PENARTH AND DISTRICT RAMBLERS NEWS

Ramblers enjoy the Taff Trail (despite the weather!)



The Ramblers take a breather

RECENTLY, on what turned out to be a reasonable day, 12 walkers turned out to join leader Barrie Mortimer for a trip up to the Storey Arms and a linear walk.

The modern version of Storey Arms, which has been a café, youth hostel and outdoor education centre is well known to walkers as a meeting point, but originally the Storey Arms was an inn named after a prominent local family and was situated to the south of the present building.

It was finally abandoned around 1897 when the Beacons reservoir was completed and it is now owned by Welsh Water and at periods of low water, the remains of longhouses can be seen within the reservoir.

With a temperature of 2 degrees, but feeling much cooler, the group got prepared and remained in their vehicles until the arrival of the bus that was to take them to Brecon town.

What followed was a safe but exhilarating, 20-minute bus ride, with fantastic panoramic

mountain views.

Brecon is a market town situated where the River Usk and Honddu meet; hence the Welsh name Aberhonddu – meaning 'mouth of the Honddu'.

After the Romans constructed the huge fort of Y Gaer which became established as a cavalry base for the conquest of Wales, Brecon became renowned as a military base.

It was probably named after Brychan, the founder of the kingdom of Brycheiniog, the original name for Brecon, but the name became anglicised to Brecknockshire or Breconshire.

Leaving Brecon under grey skies, they crossed the river bridge over the fast flowing River Usk and made their way out of the town, passing the old hospital dated 1720, which later became Almshouses for the poor supported by the church and local charities.

It was time to join part of the Taff Trail, the 55-mile long distance foot and cycle trail that links Cardiff and the south Wales valleys to Brecon and named because it follows the course of the River Taff.

Some of the route makes use of the old abandoned Taff Vale Railway line and the Glamorgan Canal, built during the 18th and 19th centuries to transport coal and iron ore from the Rhondda Valleys to the docklands at Cardiff and Barry.

The group made their way to the pretty hamlet of Pont Rhed Goch with its majestic waterfall and stopped for morning coffee accompanied by warm, home made mince pies which went down a treat!

After this, the sun began to make a shy entrance from behind the clouds and the group made their way around the aptly named Waterfall Cottage to continue along the Taff Trail.

At the tracks junction with Old Glanrhyd they exited onto a fairly recently opened scenic path into the Glyn Tarell Valley, which follows the Afon Tarell River for some distance before re-connecting with the Taff Trail. This path is under the care of the National Trust and can also be walked as a longer circular walk.

Some long-ago felled trees made the perfect seats for lunch

but under a cool grey sky body temperatures soon cooled and it was time to move on.

Leaving the Tarell Valley Walk, the group once more joined the Taff Trail and made their way up the old drovers' road back to their cars at the Storey Arms and the journey home.

On January 22, meet at 10am at Wenvoe War Memorial for a 5.5-mile easy/moderate walk that includes St Lythans long cairn; contact Geraint on 029 2051 5278.

On January 23, meet at 9.30am at the Barry Waterfront for an 8 to 10-mile moderate walk at Ogmere; contact Val W on 01446 734925.

Wear suitable clothing, preferably boots and carry waterproofs, food and drinks. Some degree of fitness is required and if you are in any doubt, then please contact the walk leader for advice. For other groups' walk log onto www.ramblers.org.uk Rucksack badges, programmes and membership advice can be obtained from Pam on 029 2021 9102.

JOY STRANGWARD

Good start for the sixth formers

WELSH Baccalaureate students were celebrating a successful start to the New Year.

Their WJEC key skills results showed a 100 per cent pass rate in 'application of numbers' and 'working with others' and 'improving own learning'.

Year-13 student Laura Elizabeth Davies said: "We are very pleased with the results as they take us one step nearer to achieving our Welsh Baccalaureate Advanced Diploma and they give us useful UCAS points."

Rebecca Morris, another successful student commented: "It's been hard work but worthwhile."

Chelsea Evans said: "Doing the key skills has given me a range of skills which will be useful for my future career choice."

Enterprise Inns Plc – Six Bells Public House, Penmark – installation of a sewage pumping station, NuDisc sewage treatment plant and associated drainage.

Mrs HA Mellor – 63 Westward Rise, Barry – single storey rear extension.

Coral Racing Ltd – 145 Holton Road, Barry – change of use from Class A1 shop to Class A2 financial and professional services to include new shopfront, two air conditioning units and satellite dishes and roller shutter door to front.

Cheque Centres Limited – 70 Holton Road, Barry – change of use Class A3 (restaurants and cafés) to Class A2 (professional and financial services).

Dr B and MH Oeppe – Portway, St Andrews Road, Dinas Powys – alterations and two storey rear extension.

Mrs Kathryn Rossi – 6 Maes Y Felin, Llandow – new vehicular access – as per previous approved application 91/00809/FUL dated 19/11/1991.

Mr David Worssam – 19 Church Avenue, Penarth – remove mature beech tree from rear garden.

Mr P Jones – 42 Adenfield Way, Rhose – garage conversion, porch alteration, single storey rear extension and internal alterations.

Mr and Mrs Rosser – 8 Stradling Close, Cwm Talwg, Barry – single storey porch to front of property.

Mr Fairfax – Warren Mill Farm Park, Pendoylan – demolition of office and stables, proposed new prefabricated office, stables and storage.

Mr Richard Harris – Llandow village hall, Llandow – the addition of a window and french doors to external store-room wall.

Mr Stuart Roy – Heather Cottage, Welsh St Donats – extension of existing garage.

Ms Julia McCarthy – Lynton, Tredodridge – granny annexe extension with new garage.

Mr Paul Howes – Sycamore House, The Walk, Bonvilston – Addition of one room, single storey extension to rear of garage.

Mr and Mrs Morgan – 12 Carmarthen Close, Barry – Disabled access adaptations to access property.

Mr Paul Howes – Sycamore House, The Walk, Bonvilston – Addition of one room, single storey extension to rear of garage.

THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL (GILESTON ROAD (PART), SAINT ATHAN) (PROHIBITION OF WAITING AT ANY TIME) ORDER 2010

On the 19th January 2011 the Vale of Glamorgan Council in exercise of its powers under Sections 1 and 2 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 (as amended), and of all other enabling powers made an Order the general effect of which is as described in the Schedule below.

The Order will come into operation on the 24th January 2011, or on the date the necessary signs/road markings are in place, whichever is the later. A copy of the Order and a plan showing the affected area may be seen at the address shown below during normal office hours.

If you wish to question the validity of the Order, or any provisions contained therein on the grounds that they are not within the powers conferred by the above Act, or on the grounds that any requirement of the same, or that any instrument made under it has not been complied with in relation to the Order, you may within six weeks from the 24th January 2011 apply to the High Court for this purpose.

SCHEDULE

Prohibition of waiting at any time.

Gileston Road (part), Saint Athan

On its eastern side, from its junction with Rock Road and contiguous with the existing prohibition of waiting at any time Order, south-eastwards for a distance of approximately 50metres.

On its western side, from its junction with The Willows, south-eastwards for a distance of approximately 36metres.

Dated this 20th day of January 2011

Mr. M.E. Punter
Head of Visible Services
Vale of Glamorgan Council, The Alps,
Quarry Road, Wenvoe, CF5 6AA.



GORCHYMYN BRO MORGANNWG 2010

AR GYFER GWAHARDD AROS AR UNRHYW ADEG YN RHAN O GILESTON ROAD, SAIN TATHAN

Ar 19 Ionawr 2011, yr oedd Cyngor Bro Morgannwg, gan arfer ei bwerau o dan adranau 1 a 2 Deddf Rheoli Traffig 1984 (ddiwygiedig), a phob p_r galluogi arall, wedi gwneud Gorchymyn i'r diben cyffredinol sydd wedi'i ddisgrifio yn yr Atodlen isod.

Daw'r Gorchymyn i rym ar 24 Ionawr 2011, neu os bydd yn rhaid aros nes y bydd yr arwyddion / marciau ffordd angenrheidiol wedi'u cwblhau, ar y dyddiad hwnnw. Cewch weld copi o'r Gorchymyn a chynllun sy'n dangos yr ardal dan sylw yn y cyfeiriad isod yn ystod oriau arferol swyddfa.

Os hoffech ddadlau'n erbyn dilyswrwydd y Gorchymyn, neu'i ddarpariaethau am na chredwch fod gan y ddeddf uchod b_er i'w gweithredu, neu am y tybiwch eu bod yn methu â chydymffurfio â gofynion y ddeddf uchod, neu un o'i hofferymau, bydd gennych chwe wythnos o 24 Ionawr 2011 i wneud cais i'r Uchel Lys i'r diben hwnnw.

ATODLEN

Gwahardd aros ar unrhyw adeg.

Rhan o Gileston Road, Sain Tathan

Ar ei hochr ddwyreiniol, o'r gyffordd â Rock Road ac yn gydhnaws â'r gorchymyn presennol ar gyfer gwahardd aros, am ryw 50 metr i gyfeiriad y de ddwyrain.

Ar ei hochr orllewinol, o'r gyffordd â The Willows, am ryw 36 metr i gyfeiriad y de ddwyrain.

Dyddiedig 20 Ionawr 2011

M.E. Punter
Pennaeth Gwasanaethau Gweladwy
Cyngor Bro Morgannwg,
Canolfan yr Alpau, Heol y Chwarel,
Gwenfô CF5 6AA.



APPLICATION DEADLINE: 5:00PM 26 January 2011

HOTLINE
01446 709840
01446 704316

To apply call the hotline, e-mail us at
HOMES4U@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk
 or apply in writing to:

Vale of Glamorgan Council
 Legal, Public Protection and Housing Department
 Civic Offices Holton Road, Barry CF63 4RU or
Newydd Housing Association
 121 Broad Street, Barry CF62 7AL

Arthur Davies Court, Barry

H4U Reference 1060464
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- Studio apartment
- First floor (no lift)
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- Double glazing
- Parking & warden on site
- Communal entrance

Rent £90.34 per week including service charge

Cambrian Court, Barry

H4U Reference 1061229
Suitable for a single person or couple over 40 – no pets

- One-bedroom flat
- First floor (no lift)
- Gas central heating
- Double glazing
- Parking

Rent £68.05 per week including service charge

Church Avenue, Penarth

H4U Reference 1024733
Suitable for a single person or couple

- One-bedroom flat
- Ground floor
- Gas central heating
- Double glazing
- Parking

Rent £61.46 per week including service charge

Copperfield Court, Barry

H4U Reference 1050592
Suitable for a single person – no pets

- One-bedroom flat
- Ground floor from rear, first floor from car park (no lift)
- Gas central heating
- Double glazing
- Parking

Rent £99.33 per week including service charge

Cwrt Melin y Rhos, Barry

H4U Reference 960949
Suit for a single person or couple – no pets (Priority given to applicants in need of adapted property)

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- Ground floor (parking)
- Gas central heating
- Double glazing
- Adapted shower
- Communal entrance

Rent £67.83 per week including service charge

Glyndwr Road, Barry

H4U Reference 210473
Suitable for a family

- Three-bedroom flat
- Ground floor
- Central heating
- Double glazing
- Gardens

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Hanover Court, Dinas Powys

H4U Reference 1061230
Suitable for a single person or couple over 60 (55 medical needs)

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- Ground floor
- Central heating
- Double glazing

Rent 97.21 per week including service charge

Manorbier Court, Barry

H4U Reference 215447
Suitable for a single person or couple over 55 (no mobility issues)

- One-bed bungalow
- Central heating
- Double glazing
- Community alarm
- Gardens

Rent £77.73 p.w. inc. water and alarm charges

Montgomery Road, Barry

H4U Reference 217251
Suitable for a family

- Three-bedroom house
- Central heating
- Double glazing
- Gardens

Rent £87.19 per week including water charge

North Walk, Barry

H4U Reference 217952
Suitable for a family

- Three-bedroom flat
- Second floor
- Central heating
- Double glazing

Rent £77.49 per week including water charge

Oak Court, Penarth

H4U Reference 1061014
Suitable for a single person or couple over 60 (55 medical needs)

- One-bedroom flat
- First floor (with lift)
- Central heating
- Double glazing

Rent £90.41 per week including service charge

Oak Court, Penarth

H4U Reference 1061047
Suitable for a single person or couple over 60 (55 medical needs)

- One-bedroom flat
- Second floor (with lift)
- Central heating
- Double glazing

Rent £89.66 per week including service charge

Ogmore Place, Barry

H4U Reference 218633
Suit. for a small family

- Two-bedroom house
- Central heating
- Double glazing
- Gardens

Rent £83.40 per week including water charge

Philippa Freeth Court, Barry

H4U Reference 973477
Suitable for an elderly family or couple over 55 – no pets

- Three-bedroom flat
- Second floor (no lift)
- Gas central heating
- Double glazing
- Parking & warden on site
- Communal entrance

Rent £118.74 per week including service charge

Tennyson Road, Barry

H4U Reference 251661
Suitable for a family

- Three-bedroom house
- Central heating
- Double glazing
- Gardens

Rent £88.73 per week including water charge

FEEDBACK			
Address	Bids	Band	Reg.
Avocet Court	54	Silver	24/05/10
Bedford Rise	38	Gold	13/06/10
Clos Llawhaden	114	Gold	12/05/10
Clos Llawhaden	99	Gold	10/01/11
Coleridge Crescent	127	Gold	15/10/09
Dunlin Court	32	Gold	21/09/10
Elfed Way	27	Silver	19/10/10
Elis Fisher Court	20	Gold	15/06/10
Fairford Street	53	Gold	10/01/11
Glyndwr Avenue	41	Gold	20/07/10
Hannah Street	18	Silver	08/06/09
Poets Field Rd	118	Gold	20/12/10
Robins Lane	114	Gold	01/12/09
Springfield Rise	12	Bronze	23/07/08
St Garmon Rd	102	Gold	02/03/10
St Garmon Rd	93	Gold	25/02/10
St Govans Close	14	Silver	01/10/10
Wanwick Way	76	Gold	26/05/10
Windsor Road	52	EMC	02/12/10

You must be a HOMES4U member to apply for any of these homes. When bidding for more than one property you will be asked to state your order of preference.

All descriptions and other details are given in good faith and are believed to be correct but any potential tenant should satisfy themselves as to their correctness.

Newydd is a charitable housing association.





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Public Notices



NOTICE OF MAKING OF AN ORDER (OTHER THAN AN ACQUISITION EXTINGUISHMENT ORDER)

HIGHWAYS ACT 1980

THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL PUBLIC BRIDLEWAY NO 32 WELSH ST DONATS PUBLIC PATH DIVERSION ORDER 2011

The above order, made on 5 January 2011, under section 119 of the Highways Act 1980, will divert Public Bridleway 32, Welsh St Donats from the alignment A-B-C-D-E to the alignment A-F as shown on the order map.

A copy of the order and the order map have been placed and may be seen free of charge at The Docks Office, Barry Docks, Barry, CF83 4RT during normal office hours. Copies of the order and map may be bought there at the price of £4.50.

Any representations about or objections to the order may be sent in writing to the Director of Environmental & Economic Regeneration, Docks Office, Barry Docks, Barry, CF83 4RT not later than 17 February 2011. Please state the grounds on which they are made.

If no such representations or objections are duly made, or if any so made are withdrawn, the Vale of Glamorgan Council may confirm the order as an unopposed order. If the order is sent to the Welsh Assembly Government for confirmation any representations and objections which have not been withdrawn will be sent with the order.

Dated 20 January 2011

GEM Family Notices

Birthdays

Happy Birthday
Carolyn
Bailey
on 20th January, 2011
HAVE A GREAT DAY!
From all your friends at
The GEM

Family Notices

BENTON Catherine

Peacefully after a long illness bravely born,
Catherine of Llantwit Major, beloved wife of Steve
and loving mother of Rebecca. Her passing leaves a
huge void in the lives of those who loved her.

Resting at WA Brown & Son, College Street,
Llantwit Major until the funeral service on Monday 31st
January in St Illtud's Church, Llantwit Major at 11.30am,
followed by cremation at Coychurch Crematorium at
1.15pm. Family flowers only, but donations, if desired,
may be made to Marie Curie Cancer Care (cheques only)
c/o the Funeral Director.

Kathleen Smith

née Palling of Penllyn

Sister to Bryn, very suddenly on January 17, at
Princess of Wales Hospital. She was a loving mother to
Roslyn (Merliah), Geoffrey and Leighton, and proud
grandmother to Gethin, Thomas, Dameon, Nathan,
James, Jonathan and Phillipa. She will be sadly missed
and always loved.

For information regarding funeral arrangements -
please call 01446 773487 (Evenings).

Thank You

NANCY JENKINS of Craig Penllyn

would like to take this opportunity of
thanking all family, neighbours and
friends in Penllyn and surrounding areas
for all their cards, presents and good
wishes when she celebrated her
95th Birthday recently.

Gwen and Eric Boorman

To all friends and well wishers.

Our sincere thanks for the messages and cards of
congratulations on our recent 60th wedding anniversary.

Special thanks to the management and staff of the
Bush Inn, St Hilary, for the very nice social celebratory
dinner provided for our guests, and to the staff of the
Miskin Manor Hotel for the special welcome and
comfort extended to us on our recent stay.

To our two daughters, Wendy and Kathleen, who
made it all possible, our love and special, special thanks.

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POSTPONED CONCERT BY BRIDGEND CHOIR WAS A HUGE TRIUMPH!

BRIDGEND Male Choir's 50th birthday year finally drew to a close at the weekend, when it staged its (bad weather postponed) "Golden Celebration Re-Enactment", repeating its first ever concert at the same 1960 venue of Tabernacle Chapel, Pontycymer.

All 350 tickets had been sold for months producing a sum of money, which together with the congregation's generosity suitably swelled the funds of Cancer Research Wales, the concert beneficiary.

It was appropriate that Bridgend-born cancer charity patron, Huw Edwards (also a patron of Bridgend Male Choir) was there to present and compeer the evening's entertainment and what an inspiration this proud Welshman was.

He had in recent years opened the new research laboratory at Cardiff and expressed his pride at the sterling work being done, particularly as all scientific research is undertaken in Wales.

Throughout the evening, his warm personality came more and more to the fore through both the Welsh and English languages.

A gentle humour was displayed throughout, other than during his passionate plea to support such wonderful chapels as Tabernacle to ensure their continued and vital role in Welsh communities.

A gifted musician himself, Huw praised all the participants and focused on the hard work of musical directors, school teachers and



Scott Williams (organ accompanist).

accompanists, without whose significant input none of it would happen.

As a keen organist, he was looking forward especially to hearing male choir resident organist, Scott Williams, who went on to perform with distinction, both as soloist and with the male choir.

After warmly welcoming 1960 concert conductor and family friend, Alun John, Bridgend Male Choir was introduced and opened the concert with a musical tribute to the late Aldwyn Humphreys who had completed an amazing 34 years as its musical director.

The stirring 'Comrades in Arms' was a challenging opener. The conclusion of three initial items saw the first local school take to the stage.

The 16 choristers of Ysgol Gymraeg Cwm Garw went through their programme with clear diction and wonderful two part harmony and contrasts. Represented by headteacher, Peter Williams, and conducted by his predecessor and former head, Jenny Alexander, the school's music team have much to be proud of.

The male choir returned with further items from Aldwyn's



Meirion Davies (trumpet) and Laura Smith (piano accompanist).

years and ended with the rousing 'Llanfair' to rapturous applause. It was time for the trumpet solo.

As previously reported, in 1960, John Jenkins played the trumpet solo as part of the entertainment.

He is now musical director of Bridgend Male Choir and elected friend, Meirion Davies, to entertain with the original instrument!

Meirion played Purcell's 'Trumpet Tune and Air', accompanied by his able partner and choir piano accompanist, Laura Smith.

Bridgend Male Choir then returned with a tribute to Aldwyn's late brother, Gwynfor, who went on to lead the choir's musical direction for eight years himself between 1994-2002.

Gwynfor's legacy continued into the second half, before another much awaited Garw valley school choir, the children of Ffaldau Primary, took the stage.

Headteacher, Mrs Schofield, conductor, Annette Dobbs and accompanist Louise Jones had clearly put in a lot of work. Just six choristers presented their interpretation of 'The Rose', made popular by Bette Middler, before being joined by colleagues for the rest of their entertaining programme. The author's pick was the challenging 'Hallelujah', which has become very popular in recent years.

Bridgend Male Choir then returned with its tribute to its current musical director, John Jenkins who has held the role, again with distinction like his predecessors, for the past nine years – not out!

and last try of the day.

Maesteg Welsh fought back with determination, but were only able to get over the line once, leaving the score at 20 - 5 to home team, Pencoed.

The referee chose Daniel Maiden as the man of the match.

The squad included: James Merchant, Jac Briggs, Owain Clarke, Scott Ewing, Josh Maunders, Morgan Jefferies, Aled Bargery, Daniel Maiden, James Whittaker, Chris Cooper, Alex King, Morgan Jones, Liam Bowen, Lewis Brennan, Jordan Fox, Ellis Griffiths, Will Sellers, Jamie Dyer, Callum Sparks and Kristen Morgan.

JM

Garden project wins funding

PALMERSTON Primary School, Barry, is one of two projects in Wales sharing in the £8,927 awarded from the Big Lottery Fund through its UK-wide Community Wildlife programme.

With the £4,977 it was awarded, Palmerston will create a sensory garden to attract wildlife to the area and provide an accessible outdoor area for children with disabilities, which will complement the therapy they receive.

Mr Mark Middlemiss, the headteacher at Palmerston Primary School, said: "We have been absolutely thrilled to have received the funding and it will bring unique experiences to our children, with huge benefits to their education and enjoyment of the environment."

Since receiving the funds, the garden construction has already begun on an unused site in the school grounds. Currently, the children have no access to a nature area and this garden will transform their experience of wildlife observation.

Mr Middlemiss added: "Our school is also a base for children with physical disabilities and the garden has been designed with many raised activities. We look forward to setting up a community gardening club and using the garden as a special place to experience the world around us."

The Davies/Sammes arranged 'Memory' from Cats saw Bridgend Male Choir return for its final contributory items, before performing its current choristers' top choices of a modern and traditional item from the first 50 years of its history.

'Bring Him Home' from *Les Miserables* was most movingly performed with a quiet control, difficult to achieve with an 80 strong body of men, followed by staunch favourite, Hartsough's 'Gwahoddiad' which rendition moved Huw Edwards to request repetition!

The Cancer Research Wales adopted anthem 'You'll Never Walk Alone', with its appropriate words, preceded the Welsh National Anthem, to bring the concert an end – after an earlier standing ovation.

DAVID T BURT

Penarth tea dance

On Monday January, 10, the Penarth Tea Dance Association held their belated christmas party at The Paget Rooms.

It was well attended and enjoyed by all. During the afternoon, dancers presented a cheque to the Marie Curie Hospice.

The tea dance meets every Monday afternoon at The Paget Rooms from 2pm- 4.30pm. £2 entrance, to include tea and biscuits. MB

FOLLOWING THEIR FESTIVE BREAK...



Director of music Mrs Dorothy Connell pictured with new members from left to right: John Lewis, Peter Walden and Mike Hartwell.

Barry choir is back, and ready to sing out

BARRY Male Voice Choir members have resumed rehearsals, following their Christmas break.

Ahead lies another busy year in which the choir will continue to support charities and develop further community links.

March 1 will see the choir returning to Wetherspoon's Sir Samuel Romilly for another festive St David's celebration, followed later in March by a joint concert with the boys of Barry Comprehensive School.

A further highlight will be the choir participation in a massed choir concert at St David's Hall, Cardiff in November in aid of The British Heart Foundation.

During 2010, choristers were delighted to welcome three new

members to their ranks.

Following his debut at the Christmas Carol Concert, Peter Walden commented: "I didn't believe that singing in a choir could be so enjoyable. I've been made very welcome."

Mike Hartwell said: "It's something I wished I'd done long ago. It's the perfect way to spend leisure time."

John Lewis, who has rejoined the choir, was delighted to be back:

GARETH JONES

VICTORIAN GARDEN

LLANTWIT MAJOR Horticultural Society will meet on January 26 at 7.30pm in the Llantwit Hall, Llantwit Major.

It welcomes back regular speaker, Kevin Thomas from Bryncethin, for a talk on how the Victorians managed their gardens. Admission to the evening, refreshments and raffle free. Everyone welcome.

TALK ON DROVERS

RHOOSE and District History Society will meet at Rhose Community Hall, Stewart Road, on Friday, January 28 at 7.30pm.

Our first speaker in the new year will be Mr Peter Davies, who will give a talk entitled 'The Drovers of Wales'. Entrance £1 for adults, includes a raffle ticket. Visitors welcome.

NEWS FROM THE BARRY MEN'S FORUM

Mike takes Forum members on nostalgic train ride – in pictures!

AFTER delighting forum members with his talk about the early pop scene, Mike Wilcock returned at the last meeting to talk about the new Tornado steam phenomenon.

Mike is a very keen photographer of rail matters and his talk was well illustrated with many moving shots of this newly-created A Class steam locomotive.

Many readers will be familiar with the story of how a group of enthusiasts in England had the faith and creative enthusiasm to raise and spend three million pounds in building a copy of this steam locomotive designed in the 1940s.

The Tornado took about 18 years to build and was finally dedicated by Prince Charles in 2009.

This impressive engine now makes regular trips around the UK and can actually be hired



Mike with a veteran loco!

for £1,000 a time. Mr Wilcock showed members several films of a visit this engine, with its Pullman carriages, paid both to Cardiff and Swansea, and over in the west country at Minehead.

On the later trip, Mike was privileged to ride on the footplate, getting his ride in just in time before such jaunts were banned on health and safety grounds.

Moving a great steam

locomotive around Britain is, as Mr Wilcock made clear, an exercise fraught with difficulties normally not understood by a generation who grew up in an age of steam.

There are now no troughs on the lines enabling steam engines to pick up vital water supplies at high speed water has to be taken on ahead, to await the train in water bowlers.

Steam coal which now comes from Russia, has to be waiting for pick-up in large paper bags, and there are no turn-tables to turn the engines around. Since steam engines are not allowed to run backwards these days, again on health and safety grounds, a diesel engine has to tow the passenger carriages back to the depot in the north of England.

The logistics of a seemingly simple and hugely popular tourist trip for nostalgia buffs are daunting, but the public benefit from the dedicated efforts of a few enthusiasts.

Next week, members will be enjoying their annual dinner, but on January 27, Mrs Margaret Bourke will speak on 'Jam, Jerusalem and Suffragettes'.

Meetings are held at 10.30am on Thursdays in the hall of the United Reformed Church in Barry. New members are very welcome.

For further details, contact 029 2059 4881. MAC TANNER

Pencoed under-14s beat Maesteg and the weather!

PENCOED under-14s were up against rivals Maesteg Welsh over the weekend, and had both the rival pack and weather to contend with.

Through the rain, forward Morgan Jefferies was able to get over the try-line for Pencoed's first try of the day.

The second try was scored by winger, Jamie Dyer, after good passing in the backs and a pass from forward Dan Maiden.

Jac Briggs scored Pencoed's third try of the game, with a little help from fellow forward, Scott Ewing.

Captain Morgan Jefferies went on to score Pencoed's fourth

and last try of the day.

Maesteg Welsh fought back with determination, but were only able to get over the line once, leaving the score at 20 - 5 to home team, Pencoed.

The referee chose Daniel Maiden as the man of the match.

The squad included: James Merchant, Jac Briggs, Owain Clarke, Scott Ewing, Josh Maunders, Morgan Jefferies, Aled Bargery, Daniel Maiden, James Whittaker, Chris Cooper, Alex King, Morgan Jones, Liam Bowen, Lewis Brennan, Jordan Fox, Ellis Griffiths, Will Sellers, Jamie Dyer, Callum Sparks and Kristen Morgan.

JM

Sport Wales could put you on the right course!

HAVE you ever dreamt of being the next Sir Terry Matthews and owning your own championship golf course; the next Duncan Bannatyne and running your own chain of successful leisure facilities – or have simply seen a gap in the sporting market that you would love to fill? Well, now could be your chance...

In their mission to get every child in Wales hooked on sport for life and to create a nation of sporting champions, Sport Wales has teamed up with former Cardiff Blues and Welsh rugby international turned successful businessman, Rhys Williams, to encourage people in Wales to start thinking of sport as a business.

With up to £25,000 on offer to get projects off the ground and people into sport, Sport Wales are piloting the project within the south east of the country and are looking for innovative business ideas that will play a part in increasing sports

participation within the community.

Former Cowbridge Comprehensive pupil Rhys Williams has successfully made the transition from sport to business and is keen for people to come forward with their ideas.

He said: "Taking that first step onto the ladder and into business can be financially daunting, but with the opportunity of backing and support from Sport Wales I would strongly advise anyone who has been harbouring an idea that could increase the participation of people in their community to bring it to the table."

"Anyone has the potential to be a Sport Wales entrepreneur; all it takes is determination, a passion for sport and a sustainable idea that will get people participating."

If you've got a great idea that could get Wales moving get in touch with Sport Wales' south east regional team now on 0845 045 0904.

Roadshow will stop off in Barry

THE National Assembly for Wales's Outreach bus will stop-off in Holton Road, Barry, from 10am-5pm on January 26, as part of its Vote 2011 campaign.

This aims to provide "objective non-partisan information to Welsh voters about the three votes they face at the ballot box this year," as well as information about the day to day work of the Assembly.

"It's a very important year for us all this year," said Presiding Officer, Lord Dafydd Elis-Thomas AM.

A referendum will be held on March 3 to ask whether the National Assembly should have increased law-making powers. On May 5, there will be the National Assembly election to decide who should represent us in the Senedd in Cardiff Bay. On the same day as the Assembly elections, we'll be asked whether we should elect our MPs at Westminster through a different system of voting.

The GEM is in partnership with the Dog's Trust to find caring homes for animals in their charge at the Bridgend Rehoming Centre (Telephone: 01656 725219)

Oslo loves food (and training!)

OSLO is a five-year-old Collie cross.

He is a very much a collie – bright, trainable and active who has enjoyed his training and has learned a lot. He would love to live with someone who will carry on with his training.

He loves food and toys so is easy to train, but does need reminding to concentrate sometimes! Oslo would like a home with an experienced and active owner, without children.

He mixes well with some dogs, so living with another dog would need to be discussed



OSLO

with the centre staff. If you think you might like to rehome Oslo, please visit Court Colman, Pen-y-fai, Bridgend, or call us on 01656 725219.

Helping hand for charity

BARRY College hair and beauty students have raised £166 for the neonatal unit at the University Hospital of Wales at the Heath, Cardiff.

The Level 2 and 3 hairdressing students held two special pamper days at Academi @ Barry College, the college's professional salon. The students contributed £2 each towards the event, which paid for food and drink for the clients.

Two sessions were held, with 16 clients in each session. "We all worked together and gave the clients as many treatments as possible, including hair colouring, hair cutting and also a free manicure," hair and beauty lecturer Louise Judd said.

There was also a table set up for handmade jewellery. The unique pieces featured necklaces, bracelets, earrings, phone charms and rings, managed to raise £90.

The students chose the neo-natal unit at Heath Hospital. The unit was chosen as one of the learners had experience of the unit's good work.

IN BRIEF

BARRY Floral Society's annual general meeting will be held at the St Nicholas Hall, St Nicholas Road, Barry, on Tuesday, January 25 at 2.15pm.

New members are always made welcome.

Mayor's coffee A COFFEE morning in aid of the Amelia Trust farm will be held by the Mayor of the Vale of Glamorgan at the Corporate Suite, Civic Office, Holton Road, Barry on Tuesday, January 25 at 10.30am – 12 noon.

Rearranged concert

THE Four Seasons by Candlelight concert due to be performed by the Vale of Glamorgan Ensemble last month was postponed due to the bad weather, but has been rearranged and will now take place at Ewenny Priory Church on Sunday, January 30 at 4.30pm.

For tickets, call 01656 664105.

Moving on THE Community Enterprise Service's Moving On programme for people looking to return to work, further learning or volunteering, is offering a free course in Llantwit Major.

Computers for Beginners is on Wednesday January 26 at 10am-12 noon in Western Vale Integrated Children's Centre, Station Road, Llantwit Major.

For further information, call Sandra/Alyson or Bev on 01446 733034.

STUDENTS DEVISE NEW GAME FIELD AT COWBRIDGE CENTRE



ABOVE: Carpentry students with lecturer Stephen Young, Annette Chinn, college entrepreneurship champion, Dinah Griffiths, and lecturer Anthony Crothers. Centre back row: Ryan Way.

CARPENTRY students have created a new game field for a local paintballing and outdoor activity centre – as a work experience exercise.

The 24 students from Barry College cleared a field at the Taskforce Skirmish Centre in Cowbridge, created a new fort and hides using materials reclaimed from the site, and repaired huts under the guidance of wood trades lecturers Anthony Crothers and Stephen Young.

Having created the field, they tested it with a paintball skirmish of their own to work out difficulties that might need ironing out and made alterations, a college spokesman reported.

Following the physical labour, the students exercised their brains by forming groups and coming up with new game briefs and rules for the field.

They then gave presentations to Annette Chinn and Ryan Way of Taskforce Skirmish, who chose two games that will be used at the field.

Three of the students have been given part time weekend jobs at the Taskforce Skirmish Centre, and more are likely to gain employment there while they study.

Ryan Way, of Taskforce Skirmish, said: "It was nice having a different point of view, having a different outlook was brilliant and they've got skills that we haven't."

"We thank the students for all the work they have done and look forward to having them back soon – there's a lot more work to do!"

Trophy dinner marks society's half century



Rae Kitchen.



Sandra Wintle.

THE Cowbridge Art Society recently held its 50th annual dinner and presentation of trophies in the St Quentin's Suite of the Bear Hotel.

Dr John Phillips gave an update on progress in the writing of the art society's history and Michelle Scragge gave her adjudicator's comments on the exhibition and the winners.

Pictured are two of the winners: Rae Kitchen with the Olwen Muir Trophy for her painting of the activities of the art society, and Sandra Wintle, winner of the Christopher Cory Trophy for portraits.

Festive drop-in

CHRISTMAS events in the Thompson Street estate, Barry, drop-in centre, were a wonderful success, said a centre spokesman.

"First, there was the pensioner's Christmas dinner, which went down really well in the appropriately decked out Castleland Community Centre.

"Farmer's Daughter Catering provided the food which went down very well (along with the wine), and raffle prizes were announced at the end.

"Then there was the Christmas carol concert, as well as the premiere of the UnityFX project's Sunday 2010 video.

"A variety of carol classics were sung, accompanied by volun-

teer pianist (Tom) from St Richard Gwyn school. Natalie Norman, a young resident also gave a lovely rendition of the Nativity story and near the end, younger children went on stage to sing 'We wish you a Merry Christmas' before going off with Santa to receive their grotto gifts."

The spokesman continued: "2011 looks to be a particularly busy one for the drop in centre, with funds now available to complete the sensory garden and work to begin on the community centre's refurbishment."

For more information, and to watch a video of the Christmas events, visit our website www.thompsonstreetestate.org.

THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) ACT, 1990

CYNGOR BRO MORGANNWG DEDDF CYNLLUNIO (ADEILADAU RHESTREDIG AC ARDALOEDD CADWRAETH) 1990

NOTICE is hereby given that application has been made to the Council for planning permission for the undermentioned developments:

HYSBYSIR trwy hyn i geisiadau gael eu gwneud i'r Cyngor am ganiatâd cynllunio ar gyfer y datblygiadau canlynol:

Development in Conservation Areas Datblygiad mewn Ardaloedd Cadwraeth

Application No:/ Rhif y cais:	2011/00030/FUL
Proposal/Cynnig:	Raise garage roof to provide storage space
Location/Lleoliad:	Kingscombe House, Llanmihangel Road, Llanblethian, Cowbridge
Conservation Area:/ Ardal Gadwraeth	Llanblethian

Listed Building Consent / Caniatâd Adeilad Rhestredig

Application No:/ Rhif y cais:	2011/00028/LBC
Proposal/Cynnig:	Removal of partition wall to create open plan kitchen/ living area. Alterations to windows and doors in kitchen/living area at rear of property. Alteration to W.C. in hallway
Location/Lleoliad:	Llys Y Coed, City
Listed Building:/ Adeilad Rhestredig	Grade II

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (GENERAL DEVELOPMENT PROCEDURE) ORDER 1995 GORCHYMYN CYNLLUNIO GWLAD A THREF (TREFN DATBLYGIAD CYFFREDINOL) 1995

Application(s) that may be of General Public Interest Ceisiadau a allai fod o Ddiddordeb Cyffredinol i'r Cyhoedd

Application No:/ Rhif y cais:	2010/00433/FUL
Proposal/Cynnig:	Change of use of site to waste treatment facility including erection of associated buildings
Location/Lleoliad:	Unit 87, Llandow Trading Estate, Llandow

Application No:/ Rhif y cais:	2010/00819/FUL
Proposal/Cynnig:	Proposed change of use to recycling depot
Location/Lleoliad:	Former Aircraft Hangers 5 & 6, Sutton Road, Llandow, Cowbridge

Full details (including plans) may be inspected during normal working hours for a period of 21 days in the offices of the Head of Planning and Transportation at the address given below, or via the Council's Online Applications Register at vog.planning-register.co.uk

Mae'r holl fanylion (gan gynnwys y cynlluniau) i'w gweld yn swyddfydd Pennaeth Cynllunio a Chludiant y cyngor (gwelwch y cyfeiriad ar waelod y dudalen) yn ystod oriau arferol swyddfa, am gyfnod o 21 o ddiwrnodau. Cewch eu gweld hefyd ar Gofrestr Ceisiadau Ar-lein y cyngor drwy fynd i vog.planning-register.co.uk.

Dated: 20 January, 2011
Rob Thomas
Head of Planning and Transportation
The Vale of Glamorgan Council,
Dock Office,
Barry Docks,
Barry
CF63 4RT

Dyddiedig: 20 Ionawr, 2011
Rob Thomas
Pennaeth Cynllunio a Chludiant
Cyngor Bro Morgannwg,
Swyddfa'r Doc,
Dociau'r Barri,
Barri
CF63 4RT

HONDA
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JANUARY CAR



USED EVENT



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 2.0 i-VTEC,
 300 miles, Milano Red,
 climate, white alloys
£16,990



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 Crystal Black Pearl,
 leather interior,
 climate Automatic
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Rhymney Valley Schools taught a lesson EMPHATIC VICTORY FOR VALE UNDER-11s

RIGHT: An outnumbered Vale player looks for support.



ON a wet and windy Old Penarthians pitch, the Vale of Glamorgan under-11 rugby squad gave the Rhymney Valley Schools a lesson in running rugby to win by 33-5.

The Vale started very well against a noticeably larger Rhymney set of forwards with a crunching

tackle by Ben Jones. The ball was shipped quickly to Rhodri Davies to run hard and score near the posts, with Jake Griffiths converting.

The Vale's second try came when Rhodri Davies bounced off the opposition defender to put the supporting Haaris Kahn in for another converted try.

Directly from the restart Fin Davies and Jack Little worked the ball to Delucia, who drove more than 10 metres with Rhymney forwards hanging off him.

Rhymney cleared their lines only for the Vale to hit back from the resulting lineout. Jack Roberts cleared up loose ball and then Bevan Howell who broke and passed well for his fellow centre, Rhydian Williams, to score. Griffiths converted once again.

From another fine passing movement, Williams again showed his pace to score under the posts with Griffiths converting once again for a half-time score of 28-nil.

There was one more score for the Vale, when the ball was recycled well for Vale captain Delucia to crash over.

Rhymney responded with a series of forward drives, and eventually their prop scored a try that went unconverted.

Vale squad: Jake Griffiths, Finlay Davies, Jack Little, Cameron Roy, Haaris Kahn, Sam Corkhill, Jack Roberts, Rhys DeLucia (captain), Ioan Williams, Rhys Bradshaw, Harrison Ashby, Bevan Howell, Rhydian Lewis, Rhodri Davies, Ben Jones, Joseph Williams, Ioan Lewis, Max Lucas, Oliver Rowbottom, Rhys Jones, Saul Connelly, Ellis Simon, Iestyn Raven.

Local 'petanque' tournament begins

THE first round of the annual competition to find the 2011 Welsh club champion was held on Sunday, January 16, with four clubs getting back on the terrain to compete for this title.

As with previous years the winning team with be invited to represent Wales and the WPA in the European leg (Euro cup) of the competition organised by the Confédération Européenne de Pétanque, CEP.

year's champions, The Wheatheaf, drawn against the Monkstone Petanque Club.

Penarth was drawn against new club, the Sir Henry Morgan, located on Rumney Hill.

After Round 1 Sir Henry Morgan and the Wheatheaf are out in front, with only one win dividing them.

The second round of WCC will be held on Sunday, February 6 at The Wheatheaf Petanque Club, and the third, if required, on February 13 at Dinas Powys.

The importance of point-to-point racing

POINT-TO-POINT racing has never

been so popular, especially in the Vale where last season thousands flocked to meetings held at Laleston, Bonvilston and Ystradowen.

Unlike ordinary race meetings, there is a certain charm about point-to-pointing, a big plus being the informality of it all and allowing racegoers to mix freely with owners, riders and trainers.

The picturesque surroundings of the countryside, the bookmakers, picnic baskets and trade stalls are all part of the attraction.

This amateur sport provides a good training ground for riders and horses who may eventually compete under National Hunt rules proper.

Sam Waley-Cohen for instance, who won the King George VI Chase at Kempton last week on Long Run, beating the legendary Kauto Star into third place, made a name for himself when winning the Welsh Point-To-Point Grand National at the Pentrych at Bonvilston on another French-bred horse

ON AND OFF THE TURF with Brian Lee

Down, three years in a row in 2002, 2003 and 2004.

The sport also gives those horses under 'rules', who have become a bit one-paced a chance to try their luck between-the-flags, as the sport is also known.

Former Welsh champion point-to-point rider Tim Vaughan, who trains at Aberthyn, is a great supporter of point-to-point racing as is Llancafarn's Evan Williams, a former national point-to-point champion rider.

Norton's Coin, who won the 1990 Cheltenham Gold Cup at odds of 100-1 and three times Cheltenham Gold Cup winner Best Mate are just two horses that graduated from the point-to-point field.

Nearly 50 years ago, when I reported on my first point-to-point, the Glamorgan Hunt meeting at Penlllyn, Cowbridge, five races on the race card were standard. However, these days eight or nine race cards are nothing unusual.

I will never forget the very first point-to-point I attended. It was the Pentrych Hunt at

Rhiwbina Farm, Cardiff, on April 5, 1952. I was just 16-years-old and it proved something of a revelation to me and I soon became an ardent fan, travelling by bus to all the other local point-to-points.

I would follow my hero Bill Jones and favourite horses such as Cariff Princess, Sylvester II, Spurn Head and Sally On; but little did I think then that one day I would be reporting on the sport for such esteemed publications as The Sporting Life and Horse and Hound.

Meanwhile, good news is that AGA are the new sponsors of the ladies' open point-to-point championship final at Cheltenham

Racecourse on May 4. Throughout the season, there will be 28

qualifiers and the first of the three Welsh qualifying races will take place at the Currie & Llangibby fixture at Howick, near Chepstow, on February 27.

The two other Welsh qualifying races will be at the Tivyside at Cilwendig on March 20 and the Pentrych at Bonvilston on April 23.

Heather King, board member responsible for sponsorship and PR at the point-to-point authority – the sport's organising body – said: "We are thrilled to see the ladies' series back up and running and it's great to have such a prestigious sponsor as AGA."

The winning owners and riders will receive specially commissioned trophies.

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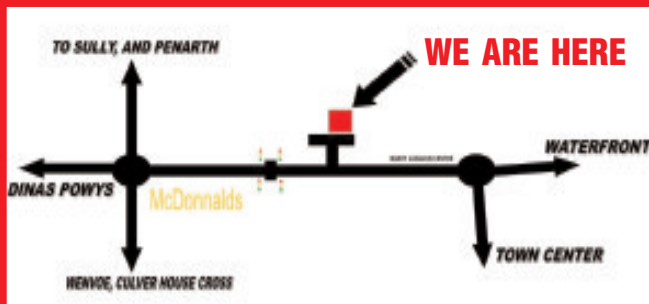
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COWBRIDGE RFC MINI AND JUNIOR ROUND UP

Teams defy the poor weather to put in good performances

Under-7's Kenfig Hill (away)
A COLD rainy day at Kenfig Hill's North Cornelly ground saw the eventual restart of the under-7s' season after the long lay off due to the weather.

It was soon business as usual for this impressive team as Will Harris went over for an uncontested try practically from the start.

Rhyddian Williams and Will Ryan joined in before Kenfig Hill answered, and this try seemed to spur the boys into life and from then on the result was never in doubt.

Kenfig Hill could do nothing with the possession they had and, with the subsequent turnovers, the Cowbridge boys went on to score a further six tries before the Kenfig Hill boys troubled the scoreboard again.

The boys went on to score three more tries, the final one being a fine team try finished off by Stefan Evans.

Kenfig Hill scored a further three tries as the boys eased off the pressure. Final score, 12-6 to Cowbridge.

With a large squad the game was split into four quarters, so all the boys had two quarters each and the scoring was split over the squad showing that this is a squad full of try scorers, and even better tacklers!

Scorers: Stefan Evans (3), Harry Treharne (2), Will Harris (2), Rhyddian Williams, Reuben Davies, Evan Davies, Morgan Harris, Will Ryan.

Squad: Tom Brennan, Robbie Brown, Henri Cairns, Evan Davies, Iolo Davies, Reuben Davies, Stefan Evans, Ethan Francis, Akka Gwyw, Morgan Harris, Will Harris, Sam Payne, Rhys Pritchard, Ifor Rees, Lewis Robbins, Luke Treadwell, Harry Treharne, Will Ryan, Finlay Sullivan, Rhyddian Williams.

Under-11s Treorchy (home) Blues Cup Round 2

DESPITE the previous few days heavy rain, the pitch was in remarkably good nick for this eagerly awaited encounter.

Cowbridge secured good early ball, but were met with ferocious defence from their opponents.

Cowbridge enjoyed

the majority of possession, thanks to brilliant play at the breakdown from Sam Corkill and Jac Roberts.

The lively Cowbridge back line were a constant threat with Bevan Howells and Rhyddian Williams making the hard yards. The ball was moved to Ellis Simon and the big winger finished superbly to open the scoring.

From the restart, Cowbridge hunted down the ball and after a superb double hit from Jake Griffiths and Max Lucas, Dan Taylor picked and drove for the try line.

Only superb defence kept him out. Cowbridge turned possession over and Evan Williams sped in for the next score. Half time, Cowbridge 14, Treorchy 0.

Cowbridge kicked off the second half and were awarded a penalty at the breakdown. Ioan Lewis took a quick tap and fed Rhyddian Williams who raced in at the corner for a superb try.

From the restart, Treorchy registered a fine try.

The outstanding Jac Roberts secured quick

ball, allowing Rhys Bradshaw to draw his man beautifully before feeding Rhyddian Williams to score the try.

From a scrum, Ioan Lewis pounced over the line for a try, and as full time approached, a superb move involving half the team saw Ioan Lewis dive over for the final score of the game.

Jake Griffiths added all the conversions for a full time score of Cowbridge 42, Treorchy 7.

The second game of the day saw the introduction of all the available subs from both sides.

From the kick off, Bevan Howells gathered the ball and scorched past the defence to score from fully 50 metres.

Cowbridge had the edge in this game and Angus James scored.

Every time Treorchy threatened, they were met with superb defence. James Guard then picked a ball up wide and jinked inside, evading the Treorchy tacklers to score the next try. Ellis Simon powered over for the final score of the half.

The second half kicked off, and Ioan Lewis scored next. The

Cowbridge pack were rampant as they contested every ball with William Davies and Cameron Roy both in abrasive mood, the ball was recycled and fed to Rhyddian Williams for the flying centre to score in the corner.

Treorchy, to their credit, never gave up and gave their superb supporters something to cheer about with a fine try of their own.

Cowbridge, though, were not to be denied and hit back with Morgan Gore scoring a scintillating solo effort.

The final try of the match saw the whole Cowbridge team link up before feeding Ioan Lewis.

The scrum half left the defence for dead before slipping a pass to the supporting Morgan Gore for a final score of Cowbridge 56, Treorchy 7.

Many thanks to all the players and supporters from Treorchy. It is a fair hike from the Rhondda in not very pleasant conditions, and your commitment, spirit and play were superb. Additional thanks to the referee, who was excellent.

Squad: Angus James, Bevan Howells, Cameron Roy, Daniel Marshall, Daniel Taylor, Ellis Simon, Evan Williams, Ioan Lewis, Jac Roberts, Jake Griffiths, James Guard, Max Lucas, Morgan Gore, Oliver Reynolds, Rhyddian Williams, Rhys Bradshaw, Sam Corkill, Tom Coates, Tom Jose, William Davies.

Under-13s Aberavon Greenstars (away)
COWBRIDGE under-13s visited Aberavon to play the Green Stars in



PICTURED: Under-7s vs Kenfig Hill

extremely wet and windy conditions.

Flying wing Tom Trotman cruised over for three spectacular long distance tries during the match and was a constant threat to the Green Stars defence.

The Cowbridge forwards also got in on the scoring act with good tries from openside Luke John, hooker Tom Evans and No. 8 Frazz McGann as the Cowbridge pack started to put the Aberavon pack under intense pressure.

The try scoring was rounded off by Matt Harper, who crashed over from a short pass from a scrum to end the game with a 47-0 score for Cowbridge.

The Green Stars almost scored at the end, but a spectacular tackle from Jonny Harvey kept the defence intact for the afternoon. Unbelievably, Matt Harper and Jonny Harvey defied the monsoon conditions and converted four of the tries.

Squad: Owain Thomas-Jenkins, Cai Thomas-Jenkins, George Thomas, Tom Evans, Jac Davies, Tom Whitehouse, Luke John, Frazz McGann, Hywel Williams, Tom Lucas, Matt Harper, Ashford Thomas, Gabe Newham, Jonny Harvey, Tom Trotman, Aled Evans.

ML

Scorpions warm up for the season

SOUTH WALES Scorpions' strength and conditioning coach Ian Gibbons is pleased at the attitude of the Scorpions players in their first two weeks of training this year.

The Scorpions' first game is a mouthwatering friendly against Warrington Wolves under-20 side at Cardiff Arms Park on Friday, February 11 (kick-off 7.30pm) and it is Gibbons' task to prepare the Welsh youngsters for their Super League challenge.

He especially singles out Curtis Cunningham, Joe Burke, Lewis Reece, Barrie Phillips, Steve Parry and trialist Tylan Mafi for compliments but has complimented the group as a whole.

"The whole squad's attitude to pre-season training so far has been great," he said. "Obviously there's been a change at the top end with the coaching staff but that's not unsettled anyone. From my point of view the boys are coming in and buying in to everything that we're doing so far. That can only get better as pre-season moves on."

Gibbons has set a 12-week schedule for the players that includes two warm-up games before the competitive season starts. He says that by the time the Cardiff Arms Park date comes around, that the players will be eager to get back onto the rugby field.

"They'll be chomping at the bit to get out there and play some decent contact rugby league," he said.

"The big draw is that Warrington game at Cardiff Arms Park. There's a lot of history that has gone through the Arms Park so to grace that field is something that the boys are looking forward to."

"Last season was about setting standard and habits as we only had four week's preparation before our first league game which we won. It's a different focus this year. We need to be running fit but increasing our strength and power. The top sides in the league will all be quick and strong so we need to be wary of that."

To buy tickets for South Wales Scorpions vs Warrington Wolves, (£10 for adults, £5 for concessions) go to www.scorpionsrl.com.

IG

The Cowbridge under-8s tested at Kenfig Hill

A DAMP January morning saw Cowbridge under-8s travel to Kenfig Hill for the second game of the year.

Suffering from a waterlogged pitch at Kenfig Hill, the match was moved to nearby Cornelly Fields where, thankfully, the rain held off for most of the game, allowing good flowing rugby to be played by both sides.

Cowbridge's squad of 20 was split into two teams, each playing 20 minute games.

GAME ONE Kenfig Hill 5, Cowbridge 3

This was an exciting game from the outset, with tremendous defensive efforts from both teams. Handling, given the conditions, was good which resulted in the majority of turnovers coming from a six tag sequences.

Kenfig Hill had a slight advantage in not being driven quite as wide as Cowbridge in attack, resulting in less turnovers due to running into touch. The scoreline was kept to 2-1 at half time which shows the defensive commitment of both teams.

The second half was again dominated by a good defensive performances and the game

again flowed well due to excellent support play from the players.

Tries: Jack Riley, Jake Williams (two). Team: Ioan Davies, Ben Farrell, David Harris, Robbie Hawkins, Oliver Jarman, Aled Leitch, Charlie Locke, Jack Riley, Harry Whittaker, Jake Williams

GAME TWO Kenfig Hill 9, Cowbridge 3

Kenfig Hill continued their momentum through to the second game, and while Cowbridge managed to keep pace during the first half with good defence, they struggled to penetrate the Kenfig line.

With the score at 3-2 at half time, Cowbridge started the second half confidently but were under pressure from a team in full flow.

Despite some ferocious tagging by Cowbridge, a number of tries leaked through from a combination of individual long runs and good inter-passing from Kenfig Hill.

Tries: Tom Johnson (two), Owen Goddall.

Team: Catrin Evans, Owen Goddall, Elis Greenwood, Harry Hawkins, Harry Holtam, Elis Howell, Tom Johnson, Iestyn Owen, Iwan Thomas, Dewi Williams.

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GEM sport

Strange game sees Barry RFC taught lesson by the High School Old Boys

LAST Saturday Barry travelled to Cardiff to play against a side immediately above them in the league table.

Given the recent heavy rain, the pitch was in remarkably good shape and with little wind the conditions were ideal for rugby.

From the outset the

home side showed their attacking intentions with a good try scored wide out; the icing on the cake was a conversion from the touchline.

To their credit Barry immediately went on the attack and following some intensive forward pressure, player/coach Prosser forced himself over near the corner flag.

The conversion was a

**CARDIFF HIGH SCHOOL
OLD BOYS
BARRY RFC**

**31
23**

fine effort but fell just below the cross bar.

Inside the first fifteen minutes HSOB had added a further two penalties to their tally, and Barry worked hard to get back into the game and were rewarded with a penalty following the yellow carding of the home captain.

However, the referee decided it was now Barry's turn for a sin-binning and it was unclear why these cards were issued or which law was transgressed.

On the stroke of half-time the Cardiff outfit scored another converted try to make the half-time score 18-8.

It was abundantly clear from the first half proceedings that the battle was between the HSOB backs and the Barry forwards; unfortunately it seems to have become the norm for referees to penalize the pack exhibiting superiority by awarding penalties.

Barry started the second session with the correct tactics, forcing their opponents onto the defensive with intense forward drives.

The reward was immediate in a successful penalty, but this success was soured with another yellow card given to the visitors.

The home team converted this penalty opportunity to extend their lead.

Stranger things were about to occur with the arbiter deciding a defensive misdemeanor was worthy of a further card to the home side and Barry being awarded a penalty try, but the conversion from under the posts was unforgivably fluffed.

Before thirty minutes of the second period were over the home side collected a further two yellow cards.

There followed a period of intense pressure from the visiting pack which created some good space to put full-back Ryan over for an excellent try; Lee did the honours with a well stuck conversion kick.

At this juncture Barry gifted the home side the match through an in-

explicable change in tactics.

The advantage of forward dominance was cast to the four winds, and the new strategy literally played into the hands of their opposition, with aimless attempts to run the ball in the backs and kicking into the open arms of strong and fast three quarters.

The result was inevitable and when the ball was lost close to the line, the Old Boys gratefully kicked a penalty to regain the lead.

With the final whistle only seconds away, they also scored a converted try to deprive Barry of a deserved losing bonus point.

Team: Ryan, Pool, Evans, Butsil, Adams, Lee, Manford, Morgan, Prosser, Haskell, King, Gill, Brown, George, Jones.

On Saturday Barry entertain Llandaff North at the Reservoir Field, kick off 2.30pm.

CO



Action from the scrum as Sully Sports beat Maesteg Quins.

Sports blow the cobwebs away

SULLY SPORTS returned to the field for the first time this year with the visit of Maesteg Harlequins, looking to get a game under their belts ahead of crucial league fixtures in the coming month.

Typically, the home side started slowly, allowing the visitors to settle and hold the lion's share of possession.

The Sully players displayed rustiness, giving away silly penalties that resulted in the first three points of the game for the opponents.

Quins attacked from all areas of the pitch, capitalising on Sully's silly mistakes and lack of shape in defence, and extended the score with a try in the corner.

As the half went on, Sully started to cut out errors and put together decent passages of play as the forwards began to pick and drive, as well as offload out of the tackle.

Prop Ismael Yasin stood out by making inroads with powerful carries and the pressure began to tell.

The ball was moved wide, allowing the ever-impressive full-back Wayne Jones to hit the line at speed and crash over under the posts. The try was converted by the returning Mike Saunders, which signalled the end of the first half.

Sully started the second half much like the first, allowing Quins to dominate in the possession and territory.

The visitors applied continual pressure, asking questions of the Sully defence, which resulted in a kickable penalty deep inside the Sully half. However, the attempt was missed, which was the turning point of the game.

Sully began to show what they are capable of, turning defence into attack at any given

**SULLY SPORTS
MAESTEG QUINS**

**12
8**

opportunity, forcing turnovers at the breakdown and gaining the upper hand.

What would be the match winning try came from the South Road outfit going through several phases of play, combining the width of the backs and the power of the forwards, resulting in a touchdown in the corner by the improving winger Dave Weston following a successful grubber kick.

The dying minutes saw the visitors knock on Sully's door time and time again but some great team defence kept them out.

It was a good win for Sully Sports against tough opposition, a perfect rehearsal ahead of their league encounter with title rivals CIACS, who visit South Road this Saturday. There were many pluses as the side

put in a good team performance, as well as individuals such as Alex Szuchnik making his second row debut, taking good ball at the lineout and stealing the opposition's ball, and prop Ismael Yasin, who showed great potential in scrummaging and causing damage with ball in hand.

It was also a bonus to see the returning half-backs Martin Young and Mike Saunders after a lengthy injury lay off.

Team: W Jones, D Stillman, M Phillips, P Mees (c), I Paterson, M Saunders, M Young, D Stillman, J Haysham, J Velda, M Angove, A Szuchnik, J Di Tomaso, J Thomas, D Russell.

Reps: I Yasin, R Swinfen, P Miller, R Franks, L L Walters, M Stngl, D Weston.

JDT

Barry Seconds turned over by Old Illydians

BARRY Second XV suffered their first defeat in the league this season, at home against a strong Old Illydians side

With the home side playing up the slope and against the elements, they were on the back foot from the kick-off as Old Illydians piled on the pressure.

The away side bore no resemblance to the team that lost to Barry earlier in the season, and were soon ahead with a converted try after breaking through from midfield.

Barry rallied in defence and some impressive tackling, led by the all-action flanker Lee Jones, kept the away side at bay for long periods. When Barry did have the ball, captain

Tom Haigh and Nick Rolfe made precious yards.

The home side fared better in the second half, playing down the slope, and pinned the "Illys" back in their 22. Barry were unfortunate to be denied two tries; first when Adam Lee was adjudged to have been out of touch before grounding in the corner, and second when the ball was called to be out of play before substitute Ken Chow dived across the line.

It was a tremendous effort by all involved on the day, especially for those who made their debuts for the second team. Barry's next league game is at home against Pontyclun in a top-of-the-table clash.

KC

Barry RFC under-9s turn on the style...



Barry RFC under-9s.

AFTER a month of cancelled games due to the weather, Barry RFC under-9s welcomed a home fixture against St Joseph's.

Dominating from the start with great speed, handling skills and team awareness, Barry's display of open rugby enabled them to score seven tries in just 20 minutes and only concede one

in return.

Coach Grantley Harris praised the team and try scorers were M Grady (3), L Harris (3) and R O'Donovan with his first try for Barry.

Grantley and team manager Nikki would like to thank all the parents for their support and the boys for their continued dedication to the team.

NT

Barry under-15s run in the tries



Action from the game.

BARRY RFC under-15s faced Llandaff North and what a thrilling and exciting match it was.

Barry went into the lead when Rhys Burnett scored, with a successful conversion by Jack Smith.

Shortly after, a blistering break saw Dan Lane score his first try for Barry. Further tries came from Jacob Burgess, Tom Adams (with a successful conversion by Theo Richards), Sam Reec Davis, who also convert-

ed one of Barry's other tries, and Mitch Scott, who scored two tries.

Llandaff North managed to come back in the second half of the game with two tries for their team, but it was not enough to stop Barry going ahead and winning the match 41-12 with excellent play all round.

A good crowd turned out to support the home side, and we would like to thank Mark Fraser for taking team photos as it was the first time the under-15s had worn their new strip.

TA

Jenner Park Stadium

The Vale of Glamorgan Council invites expressions of interest from suitable outside organisations to become a primary user(s) at Jenner Park Stadium, Barry Road, Barry in the Vale of Glamorgan for 2011/12 season and possibly beyond. It is possible that more than one organisation may be selected by the council as primary users.

Facilities at the stadium include a full size high quality grass pitch suitable for football etc., athletics facilities (including a modern six-lane 400m track), covered seating for approximately 2500 spectators and access to changing facilities.

Organisations interested in submitting a proposal should obtain a first stage qualification questionnaire from Mr. D. Knevett, Operational Manager: Leisure and Tourism, Vale of Glamorgan Council, Dock Office, Barry, CF64 4RT or by telephoning 01446 704748.

All submissions must be received in writing by Friday 11th February 2011.

